

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Portrait of the artist
The eccentric but successful Willem De Kooning
In your interests
Borrowers' and investors' guide to best buys from the building societies
Pet subject
Author and zoologist Gerald Durrell talks about unusual house pets in Russia
Stolen stories
Novelist Salman Rushdie demands action against the book pirates
Welsh challenge
Preview of the Wallabies' match against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mrs Anne Sankey of Shipton-on-Stour, Warwickshire, and Mr Tristram Jenkins of Sherborne, Dorset, each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 16; how to play, information service, back page

Test tube attempt by surrogate

The first attempt to use the test-tube technique to allow a woman to have a baby for her childless sister has been made at Hammersmith Hospital, London. One embryo was transferred last month, but a pregnancy did not result. Another attempt is to be made, however

My sister's baby, page 11

Husain's plea

King Husain of Jordan called on Mr Yasser Arafat's Palestinians, meeting in Amman, to join him in a joint approach to peace in the Middle East

Earlier report, page 6

What about talks to protect M.P.s from themselves?



Lonrho men go

Lord Duncan-Sandys and Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the two Lonrho representatives on the board of House of Fraser, the department stores group, have agreed to resign from the board

Rebels to die

Two unrepentant Zapu guerrillas were sentenced to death in Harare for their part in the kidnap of six tourists, including two Britons

Stores takeover

Dee Corporation, the food wholesaling and retailing concern, is buying the 380-shop International Stores chain from BAT Industries for £180m

McEnroe out

A wrist injury has forced John McEnroe to withdraw from the Australian Open and may keep him out of the Davis Cup final

Gatting in flow

Mike Gatting hit six sixes and scored 136 not out in England's total of 458 for three declared against India's West Zone who replied with 66 for one

Leader page, 13

Letters: On student charges, from Mr C. A. Giles, and others; Irish neutrality, from Mr J. MacInerney; customs seizures, from Mr J. Beyer
Leading articles: Warnock debate: GCHQ
Features: pages 10-12
Judges tempted by politics; Second-term worries for President Reagan; the high cost of wangs; Lord Snowden on Irving Penn; having a baby for sister
Obituary, page 14
Mr Kenneth Martin, Gerhard Hüh

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Howe taxes visitors and gives notice of Unesco pull-out

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Cuts in Britain's diplomatic representation overseas, with the closure of 10 consular missions and economies of about £1m in both the BBC's external services and the British Council were among the measures announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to the Commons last night to enable him to keep the Foreign Office budget next year at the planned total of £1,870m.

In addition Britain's military assistance programme for the training of other countries' armed forces is being cut by about £500,000. Commonwealth citizens visiting Britain are to be faced for the first time an entry charge of £10, and visas for foreigners coming to Britain will go up from £6 to £10, bringing in a total of £4m a year.

Spending on information services is to be cut by about £1m. Sir Geoffrey also said that the Government was giving notice of Britain's withdrawal at the end of the next year from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), a decision immediately attacked by Mr Edward Heath, the former prime minister, as lamentable and illogical.

The move will be reconsidered at the end of 1985; if withdrawal is confirmed it would save about £5m in 1986-87.

Sir Geoffrey's eagerly-awaited statement on the distribution of the Foreign Office budget left MPs puzzled last night over the total value of the cuts he had

had to make. He told MPs that the specific figures would be in the expenditure White Paper early next year, and Foreign Officials were no more forthcoming.

The exercise enabled him to say that the provision for overseas aid remained at the previously published total of £1,130m, an increase of about 3 per cent on this year, but MPs were quickly pointing out that this would still amount to a real terms cut given the fall in the value of sterling, and higher inflation in many recipient countries.

Sir Geoffrey, opening the debate on a Liberal Party motion opposing cuts in the real value of the aid programme, said that it would be unrealistic to consider aid in isolation from the Government's other activities.

The wider context was the continuing need to retain tight control of overall public spending. "The only consequence of a failure to maintain that central economic policy would in the end be to undermine the country's capacity to sustain, finance and aid its interests

abroad, to undermine its capacity to make its contribution to the needs of the third world," he said.

Explaining the decision on Unesco, which was greeted with protests from all parts of the House, Sir Geoffrey said that Britain was not satisfied that the developing world was getting value from the organization.

Acknowledging that some progress had been made, he said that the Government could not be confident that adequate reforms would be achieved by the end of next year, and must safeguard its position by giving notice.

He said that both the British Council and the BBC should absorb part of their own rising costs as part of the overall need to keep down government expenditure.

The cuts in the British Council's budget could lead to it pulling out of several smaller countries and will "inevitably" mean a curtailment of operations world-wide. Council ministers in Central America and the Gulf are thought to be most at risk.

The BBC was unable to predict the result of the cuts last night, but Corporation sources felt they were likely to be severe. A 1.5m cut in support in 1981 led to the loss of three language services, in Spanish, Italian, and Maltese, and cuts in other areas.

In a statement, the BBC said that its board of governors would wish to study the implication of the Foreign Secretary's remarks in detail before predicting their outcome.

The Labour Party returned yesterday to the role for which it was formed - using rather than obstructing Parliament. It used verbal rather than physical means to express its anger at the Government's denial of benefit to strikers.

There was evidence of a shared wish to prevent fresh signs of the incipient mob rule of the previous night, when some 30 Labour members forced the Speaker to abandon the sitting.

Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Dennis Skinner and others had late on Wednesday night used the methods of the street to occupy the centre of the chamber. Glaring and shouting at ministers, they refused the repeated requests of the Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill, that they should allow Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, to continue the statement their own front bench had demanded.

It was the ugliest scene for some years, unbecoming for ministers and dismaying for the Opposition front bench, whose impotence and isolation from an increasingly assertive section of their own party was painfully displayed.

Yesterday Mr Roy Hattersley, deputizing for Mr Neil Kinnock who was in Moscow, Continued on back page, col 3

Where the axe falls

	£m
BBC external services	1
British Council	1.2
Training aid	0.5
Information services	1
New revenue	
Vases (up £5 to £10)	2.4
Commonwealth charge (£10 to £15)	1.6
Withdrawal from Unesco	5
(1986-87)	

per cent on this year, but MPs were quickly pointing out that this would still amount to a real terms cut given the fall in the value of sterling, and higher inflation in many recipient countries.

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CHECKING IN: Mr Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, recovering at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, yesterday, after his car accident on Wednesday. Page 3

Leading banks cut base rates to 9 1/2 %

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Three of the big four high street banks cut their base rate from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent yesterday. Rates offered to depositors were reduced by half a percentage point.

The reduction will not have any immediate impact on mortgage rates. All the big building societies have announced mortgage rate cuts averaging one percentage point over the past fortnight. However, it should pave the way for still cheaper home loans in the new year.

The banks are also to announce an early cut in the interest rates charged on Access and Barclaycards. Access now charges 2 per cent a month, and Barclaycard 1.75 per cent.

The base rate move, led by National Westminster, followed a reduction, late on Wednesday evening, of the discount rate in the United States from 9 to 8 1/2 per cent. Lloyds and Midland followed, leaving Barclays, which reduced its base rate from 10 to 9 1/2 per cent on Monday, out of line.

The announcement of lower base rates coincided with the publication of the trade figures for October, which showed a record visible trade deficit, of £851 million.

However, after taking into account the surplus on the invisible items of trade (services, interest and profits), of £250 million, and the £328 million rebate received from the EEC last month, the current account deficit was just £73 million.

With additional coal imports added around £350 million, the import bill. Also, there was evidence that importers brought forward shipments to beat new VAT regulations at the ports.

Exports also reached a new high in October, up £447 million on September. The bulk of the increase, £371 million, was in exports of manufactured goods and officials say this could show that exporters are now benefiting from the pound's low level.

The sterling index was unchanged at 75.1 and the pound gained 10 points against the dollar to \$1.2275.

Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Despite the record trade deficit, which brings the cumulative visible deficit for 1984 to £3,954 million, Whitehall statisticians said the figures contained some optimistic signs.

Imports, which reached a record level of £7,142 million in October, were boosted by two special factors. Extra imports of oil for use in power stations during the coal strike, together

with additional coal imports, added around £350 million, the import bill. Also, there was evidence that importers brought forward shipments to beat new VAT regulations at the ports.

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Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Law Lords uphold GCHQ ban

By Frances Gibb and Paul Routledge

The Prime Minister won the unanimous backing of the House of Lords yesterday over her decision to ban trade unions at the Government's Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham (GCHQ) from March this year. The unions immediately announced that they are to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights.

In the third judicial ruling on the ban since it came into force, five law lords held that the Government did not act illegally in not first consulting the trade unions at Cheltenham over the ban.

They ruled that the Government was under no obligation to consult because a question of national security was involved.

Lord Fraser of Tullybelton said that there had been no question of national security, the staff unions would have had a legitimate expectation that they would be consulted before the Government made its decision in December last year.

But the evidence presented by the Government "does in my opinion undoubtedly constitute evidence that the minister [Prime Minister] did indeed consider that prior consultation would have involved a risk of precipitating disruption at GCHQ".

Lord Scarman said that he had no doubt that the Prime Minister had acted lawfully.

Continued on back page, col 5

Russians agree to talk about arms

From Richard Owen Moscow

The long-awaited Soviet-American breakthrough finally took place yesterday with the announcement that Mr George Shultz and Mr Andrei Gromyko would meet in Geneva in January, not only to explore detente but to draw up the agenda for new arms negotiations on a broad range of contentious issues.

But the Soviet Union insisted last night that the agreement to open new Soviet-American arms talks, announced simultaneously in Moscow and Washington, did not amount to a "renewal of Soviet-American negotiations".

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters this was "completely untrue". Diplomats said, however, that the Russians had none the less agreed to talk to the United States about a range of arms control issues even though Washington had not fulfilled the conditions previously laid down by the Kremlin. "The rest is semantics," one diplomat said. "The superpowers are talking again."

The Soviet Union walked out of the Geneva arms talks on medium-range missiles and strategic missiles almost exactly a year ago, after NATO had deployed the first phase of cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe to counter Russia's deployment of SS20s.

Until very recently Soviet officials were insisting both publicly and privately that NATO must withdraw its medium-range missiles before arms talks could resume. "Erasing the slate clean and starting afresh they can argue that they have not given up their preconditions but have put the issue on one side," one Western observer commented.

Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced that America and Russia had agreed "to enter into new negotiations with the aim of achieving mutually acceptable agreements via the whole range of questions concerning nuclear and space weapons".

Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz would meet in Geneva on January 7-8 to work out "A joint understanding of the subject and aims of such negotiations". Mr Lomeiko said.

Asked if Russia had given up its demand for the withdrawal of cruise and Pershing, Mr Lomeiko said the new talks were not a continuation of the Geneva medium-range negotiations. The Soviet position remained that those talks could only be resumed if cruise and Pershing were withdrawn.

"The fact remains that Moscow has gone from intense negotiations" to a "renewal of Soviet-American negotiations".

Continued on back page, col 8

Baker lists savings after GLC abolition

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Scrapping the Greater London Council and six other large authorities will cost 7,000 jobs in 1986 and save £100m a year afterwards, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, said yesterday.

He spoke after publication of the Local Government Bill, which allows ministers to scrap the seven councils on the same day and hand over their tasks to other bodies.

The chorus of Opposition protest against the plan was joined by Mr Alan Green, leader of the minority Conservative group on the Greater London Council. He said he was sad that the Government had not yet recognized the need for a new elected council for London instead of the "mish-mash" in the Bill.

Publication of the 180-page Bill at £9 a copy enables ratepayers in the largest cities in England to find out in detail how their museums, buses, country parks, dustbins and fire engines are to be administered. One thing they will not learn is the size of the rate reduction that elimination of seven large councils will bring.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, said: "Even if the Government's figure is right, it brings the average London ratepayer the ludicrous saving of 14p a week," he said.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Labour environment spokesman, said that the cost of abolishing all seven councils could exceed £300m in the first year. "This Bill constitutes a bungled and botched set of proposals concocted when Mrs Thatcher rattled on her personal pledge to abolish rates," he added.

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Splash out on an auld acquaintance

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STILL BLENDED BY A MACKINLAY, FIVE GENERATIONS LATER.

Hawke's winning cricket shot in a bowls club

From Alan Hamilton Brisbane

The Australian Air Force BAC 1-11, unofficially code-named Christmas One, touches down in the steamy morning heat of Brisbane, capital of Australia's deep north, where sheep, sugar cane and shamelessly fundamentalist right-wing politics rule the day. From its door into enemy territory steps Mr Bob Hawke, the Labour Prime Minister, who is so certain of being returned in next week's general election, that no sensible bookmaker will take money on him.

Mr Hawke is remarkably fresh after six inordinately long weeks on the campaign trail. His steely grey eyes sparkle like dipped car headlights, the combined result of many



alcohol-free years, a regular and mean game of tennis, a campaign schedule that allows him his evenings off, and a messianic mission to continue leading Australia down the middle path to a future whose only certainty is that it should include Bob Hawke.

There is no danger of him meeting the enemy head-on today. Sir John Bjelle-Petersen, the fundamentalist, nationalist state premier of Queensland, has flown to Melbourne for the day to berate homosexuals, for whose

very existence in Australian society he is more than ready to blame Mr Hawke and his gang of limp-wristed pinkies, particularly since the country has been in the grip of an AIDS scare.

The cavalcade of cars whisks Mr Hawke first to a suburban bowls club, where he is to present the Prime Ministers' Cup, donated by himself earlier this year. The white-dressed, sun-batted bowlers applaud his arrival and crowd round him on the 'bowls' to touch the hem of his garment and shake his hand.

The very people who should be complaining at his introduction of a means test for pensioners chuck with delight, call him Bob, and press copies of his authorized biography, or mere scraps of paper, into his hand, for his autograph. He

kisses every grandmother within reach, while Mrs Hazel Hawke bravely does the honours with her spoon.

Handing over the cup to the winning team is an occasion for Mr Hawke to make an instant speech on how his Government has given more support to sport in general, and bowls in particular, than any other in the nation's history.

"Are you going to walk on water, now, Bob?" shouts an elderly bowler from the ranks in the good-humoured and unmistakable accent of Glasgow.

No, but he will try a bowl. It is a bummer, well short and off-line. "Good cricket shot, Bob," they cry with undisguised delight.

Then on to a war veteran's hospital, where hideously lim-

MPs demand guards for ministers after Jenkin crash brings kidnap fears

By Michael Horsnell

The risk of a Cabinet minister being kidnapped is to be raised with the Home Secretary by a group of MPs after a car crash on Wednesday night involving Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Jenkin, aged 58, who fractured a wrist and received a minor back injury, was left shocked, dazed and without immediate police protection after the accident in east London.

MPs believe the vulnerability of Mr Jenkin in the crash facing senior politicians who are not afforded Special Branch protection.

Calling on Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to extend protection to Cabinet ministers, Mr Peter Bruinvels, Conservative MP for Leicester East, said MPs were shocked.

Mr Bruinvels told *The Times*: "A minister in a tricky situation such as Mr Jenkin is over the abolition of the Greater London Council should have police protection at all times. I should have thought that particularly

after the Brighton outrage this would have been automatic for all Cabinet ministers. I am very surprised there was none at the time of the accident."

About 100 Special Branch officers are engaged in protecting only about 30 top politicians, past and present, including the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland ministers and the Leader of the Opposition.

About half as many officers again would be needed if protection were extended to the entire Cabinet.

Mr Jenkin's chauffeur-driven ministerial Rover was in collision with another car being driven in the opposite direction in Wapping, east London.

Mr Norman Miscampbell, Conservative MP for Blackpool North, who was travelling with Mr Jenkin, was also admitted to the London Hospital.

Both men were described as "fine" last night but an orthopaedic consultant at the

hospital decided Mr Jenkin should be detained for observation until tomorrow.

Mr Andrew Dillon, the hospital's deputy administrator, said: "We do not think he is any more seriously injured than he originally thought but his condition requires further hospital attention. He is in good spirits but in some pain."

Mr James Wignore, the driver of the other car, suffered head, chest and leg injuries, and his condition was described as comfortable.

Mr Jenkin had been due yesterday to handle arrangements for the publication of the Local Government Bill abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan county councils, and to give a press conference. His place was taken by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government.

The Department of the Environment said Mr Jenkin was not expected to be back at his desk next week but that he should be well enough to open the debate on the second reading of the Bill probably in the first week of December.

Tory concern over students' fees

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Pressure on the Government over its plans for student grants increased yesterday with the news that members of the Conservative backbench committee on education have asked Mr Peter Brooke, junior education minister, to talk to them.

Mr Brooke, who is in charge of higher education, is not expected to have an easy ride at the meeting on December 5 which will be chaired by Mr David Madel, Conservative MP for Bedfordshire South West, chairman of the backbenchers' committee.

Many Tory MPs are concerned about the Government's decision to make the better-off pay more towards the living costs and education of their offspring at university. Those on a residual income of more than £20,500 will have to pay £725 more a year towards the education of their offspring at university.

That will affect more than 50,000 families, many of whom are natural Conservative voters.

University applications are down by 4,000

Four thousand fewer people have applied so far for university places next year than this, the Universities Central Council on Admissions says.

It is likely that some prospective students have been put off applying because competition is now fierce and entrance standards are tougher.

The drop is contrary to trends set in recent years. The final date for applications is December 15, but candidates have been applying much earlier because of the competition for places.

Fewer state school pupils applied for and obtained Cambridge University places this year, according to university figures.

This fall, from 47 per cent last year to 42 per cent this,

reverses the trend of the past few years. The proportion of women accepted, however, rose from 33 per cent last year to 36 per cent this year.

Students at York University said yesterday that they would continue their sit-in until they had defeated government plans to scrap minimum grants. About 300 students occupied the administration building after a students' union meeting.

About eighty have been sleeping on the building's floors.

More than 2,000 students rampaged through Glasgow yesterday and at one stage besieged the city chambers in George Square. Twelve were arrested accused of disorderly behaviour and vandalism. Police reinforcements were called out to control the crowds.

20% rise in pilgrims expected

By Derek Harris

Thomas Cook's specialist subsidiary, Inter-Church Travel, is expecting an upturn in pilgrimages next year.

An increase of up to a fifth in the number of travellers Inter-Church expects to carry next year was predicted yesterday by Mr Douglas Cady, the company's general manager.

That is likely largely because the Holy Land, which accounts for more than half of pilgrimage traffic, has seen a return to greater political stability. A wider spectrum of people is also being attracted by Inter-Church.

Mr Cady said: "Predominantly older, single people have been going on pilgrimages, but there is a growing trend for married couples to go."

Inter-Church, established in 1954 to promote Christian unity through travel, possibly accounts for up to a fifth of those making pilgrimages, Mr Cady estimates. It expects to carry about 10,000 people this year, but not all will have been pilgrims. Inter-Church also offers cultural tours and retreats.

All Inter-Church tours have leaders, usually clergy, to add a dimension of specialised knowledge, especially on the pilgrimages.

Among the tours are an annual St Francis one including Rome and Assisi, tours of the ancient pilgrim route across northern Spain to the shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela, and a tour tracing the steps of St Paul on his second and third missionary journeys from Galatia to Greece.

Prices next summer will rise by about 5 per cent.

Some of the Inter-Church tour prices are down, especially some of those based on Italy, Crete, Turkey and Greece. Holy Land tours start at £499 for 10 days, but on eight-day tours is being introduced next summer priced at £429.

Disabled to use Princess's former home

The Princess of Wales' former home, Park House on the Queen's Sandringham estate in Norfolk, is to be used as a holiday home for severely handicapped people.

The Victorian mansion, which the King Edward VII had built for staff accommodation, was the Princess's birthplace and home for 15 years before her father, Lord Spencer, inherited his title and moved to Althorp, Northamptonshire.

Now the Leonard Cheshire Foundation has launched a £1m appeal to convert the mansion

Judge frees wife who killed cruel husband

Mrs Pauline Wyatt, aged 29, a mother of five who shot her sadistic husband, was freed yesterday by a judge, who told her: "I think you have suffered enough."

Her husband threw knives at her, put a loaded shotgun into her mouth and pointed it at her head, threatening to light it.

He handcuffed her in the bath, threatened to touch the water with electric wires and regularly branded her body with hot wires twisted into his initials.

He strangled her two pet parrots and choked the family puppy before shooting it.

Mrs Wyatt said as she left

Manchester Crown Court that she was relieved she could spend Christmas with her children, aged 11 years to 16 months.

Mrs Wyatt was put on probation for three years after she was convicted of the manslaughter of her husband, Charles, at the then family home in Flora Drive, Salford, Manchester.

Mrs Wyatt killed him with a shotgun as he slept hours after he threatened to "skin" two of their children, stab two others and strangle their baby.

The jury took 10 minutes to find Mrs Wyatt, 39, of Regent Drive, Salford, not guilty of murder.

Soldiers accused

Seven members of the first Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, were remanded in custody until Monday by a special court at Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday, jointly charged with the rape of a woman soldier at a Wiltshire army barracks. Five other members of the unit were charged with the offence on Tuesday and also remanded.

Philips' cell radio venture

Philips, Europe's largest electronics group, is to link with Rascal Vodafone, one of two systems licensed to bring car and portable telephones using cellular radio technology on to the market from the beginning

of the new year, it was announced yesterday. The other system, Cellnet, a joint venture between British Telecom and Securicor, has started gearing up its marketing for the London area.

Shops union plea for restrictions to stay

Leaders of the shop workers' union yesterday launched their campaign against the abolition of shop-hour restrictions recommended by the Auld committee.

Mr Sid Tierney, president of the union, which represents one-eighth of Britain's 2,200,000 shop workers, said: "These proposals would drag our people back into the dark ages. We will fight to have the Shops Act properly enforced."

"Unions have their funds sequestered for allegedly showing contempt of the law, yet every Sunday there is blatant contempt by traders

which is met with nothing more than paltry fines which deter no one."

Mr Tierney said that if the Government carried out its plans to abolish wage councils, shop workers would be left with no protection in law against being required to work late at night or on Sundays, and premium payments for working unsocial hours would disappear.

The Federation of Multiple DIY Retailers, however, was able to cite evidence that most MPs now want Sunday trading laws to be relaxed.

A survey of MPs commissioned by the Federation for Marketing & Opinion Research International (FOMRI) found that 75 per cent said they were in favour of a change.

The Government will announce its response to calls for legalised late-night shopping and Sunday trading early next year, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, told the Commons yesterday.

He rejected a Conservative MP's call for prosecutions under the Shops Act not be pressed in the meantime. Parliament, page 4



Sinking coaster crew of seven lifted to safety

A British coaster, pictured above, sank in rough seas off Plymouth yesterday, shortly after her crew of seven were rescued.

The 640-tonne Fyhr's cargo of granite chippings shifted in a force nine gale two miles south-west of Plymouth, on Wednesday night, and the ship developed a severe list.

Three crew members were lifted off by a helicopter from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship, Engadine, and landed on the destroyer, HMS Brilliant.

The remaining four men were taken off by the Plymouth lifeboat.

Thirteen passengers and a driver escaped serious injury yesterday when this 50-seater coach, right, skidded and overturned on a flooded dual carriageway outside Ringwood, Hampshire, on the A338 from Bournemouth.

Gillick judgment delay

The Court of Appeal reserved judgment yesterday in the Gillick case.

Mrs Victoria Gillick, aged 37, who has 10 children, is seeking a declaration that Department of Health and Social Security

guidelines, which give doctors the right to give advice and contraceptives to under-age girls without their parents' consent, are unlawful.

She is appealing against the High Court's refusal

Tourist boom at Culloden

Culloden, scene of the last battle fought on British soil, had the biggest gain in visitors last season to the National Trust for Scotland's property, it was announced yesterday.

Sixteen thousand people visited the battle site near Inverness.

For the second successive season, the number of visitors to the Trust's properties was more than 1.5 million. Admissions totalled 1,570,889.

Cot death risk 'if babies are too warm'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Parents may be pitting their babies at risk of cot death from overheating by wrapping them up too warmly or keeping them in oppressively hot rooms, a study in *The Lancet* suggests.

In research involving 34 cot deaths, Dr Anthony Stanton, consultant paediatrician at Scarborough Hospital, says that in all but two cases the babies were either unusually hot and sweating before death, died in unusually warm rooms, were overclothed or beneath layers of blankets, or had evidence of an infection which in many cases would not usually be expected to cause death.

A combination of the risks could turn a potential danger - being too hot, or having an infection - into a lethal one, he says.

Parents need to be educated away from the folk-lore that babies catch cold to the reality that many are at risk from overheating. No policy will stop all cot deaths, he says and in some cases, for example where there is a very low birth weight, keeping babies cool may not even be relevant. But overheating is a risk that is common and should often be avoidable.

In the study, babies had been put next to coal fires, or radiators. One 3 month old boy was in a warm room at night, swaddled in a large doubled blanket wrapped twice round him with two large woollen blankets folded into four on top.

Dr Stanton said parents needed to be sensible about how warm they kept their children. If they brought in a child well wrapped up against the cold after a trip outdoors, they needed to take off some of the clothing.

"Babies that are cold cry" he said. "But some babies that are too hot do not seem to."

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PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 22 1984

Reactions to disorder

Aid budget intact

Sunday trading

Speaker will uphold reputation of House

COMMONS

The scenes in the Commons the previous night, when Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, was prevented from making a statement on supplementary benefit to the families of striking miners, were the roughest the house had ever seen, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared during question time.

Charges of callousness and vindictiveness should be turned not against the Government but against the National Union of Mineworkers which was prepared to use its money for mob violence rather than for looking after its members, she told Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, standing in for Mr Kenneth Clarke in the House.

The exchanges between the Prime Minister and Mr Hattersley led to noisy scenes in the House with the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) having to call for order, particularly when Labour members directed their wrath at Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP.

After question time the Speaker, in a short statement about the previous night's events which led to him adjourning the House because of grave disorder, said that for centuries the House had seen the strongest expressions of conflicting opinion and policy. Over the centuries it had jealously guarded its procedures of free debate.

If its proceedings (he went on) are brought to a halt by disorderly conduct, and this does include the refusal to hear the opinions of others, then this long tradition will be damaged and violated and the authority of Parliament is undermined.

As long as I am Speaker I shall continue to uphold its reputation and its supremacy and I hope that in this I will always have the full backing of the whole House of Commons.

There was immediately a shout by a Conservative MP asking the Labour benches "Why don't you apologise?" and the Speaker said: "On a day when feelings are running high remarks from a sedentary position do not help the situation."

There is to be a debate in the Commons on Monday on the issue which had come to the fore in a written reply the previous day indicating that the £15 being deducted from the supplementary benefit paid to miners' dependants on the assumption that the NUM is paying strike pay, is to rise to £16 as the new benefit rates come in.

When question time exchanges began, Mr Fergus Mountgomery (Ayrincham and Sale, C) asked if Mrs Thatcher agreed if a union called its members out on strike, a strike which caused great inconvenience and cost to the community at large, the responsibility for looking after those strikers should fall on the union responsible? (Conservative cheers)

Mr Thatcher: Yes, I agree. That was what was proposed in our 1979 manifesto which was overwhelmingly endorsed and passed into law in the Act of 1980, in which deductions from benefits payable to strikers' families are made.

Mr Hattersley: Did the Prime Minister hear Mr Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services on the radio this morning admit that the specified sums in the order for 1984 will further reduce the real value, the purchasing power, of the social security payments made to families of striking miners?

What possible justification can there be for this gratuitously vindictive act? (Labour cheers)

Does the Prime Minister still not realise that such callousness confirms our long held view that she is less concerned with the waste and suffering of the miners' dispute than with the hope of scoring a cheap political victory?

Mrs Thatcher: If, in accordance with the Act, the NUM meets its obligations to the strikers, they will get the full benefit of the social security payments because the NUM will meet the £16. Callousness and vindictiveness should be turned against the NUM which is prepared to use the money for mob violence rather than for its members.

Mr Hattersley: The Prime Minister continues to pretend this is necessary under the Act, when the Act gives her power to change the components. If the Prime Minister is so conscious and certain of the righteousness of her cause, why did she try to sneak the order through at the last moment?

To coin a phrase that she will remember from question time a week ago - why does she not have the guts to come down and explain it herself? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: The point of the Act is that those who belong to trade unions are entitled to look to the trade unions for a part of their benefit while they are on strike. If the NUM carried out its obligations, striking miners' families would have £16 next week.

The formula is contained in section 6(2) of the Social Security Act 1980. The formula is automatic.

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change that formula would have required new regulations to have been brought before the House. The formula was used this year as in every year since 1980.

I would have thought Dr Owen would have joined me in expecting unions calling members out on strike to have some obligation to pay strike money.

Mr Michael Stern (Bristol, North-West, C): The scenes of disruption in this House last night were disgraceful and the MPs concerned should apologise to the Speaker and the House as a whole.

Mrs Thatcher: It would be a nice way of ending a very ugly incident if they did.

Mr Jack Dawkins (Eastington, Lab): Does not the continued refusal of the Prime Minister to answer Mr Hattersley's direct question demonstrate what a guilty conscience she has about the matter?

Will she say clearly that the Government has power under the regulations not to increase... (loud Conservative protest). It ever proved was needed, is it not the case that the main purpose of the Government in this strike is simply to break the power of the NUM?

Mrs Thatcher: The statement by Mr Fowler arose from the precise application of the formula in the 1980 Act. If that is to be altered, secondary legislation has to be brought before the House. It has been applied precisely every year since the Act started.

If he has any conscience, he should address it to the NUM who called their people out on strike.

Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (Barnley and Spennithorne, C): The best possible way of providing a good Christmas for miners' families is for the miners to return to work tomorrow, and not to rely on hand-outs from local authorities and others.

Mrs Thatcher: Hand-outs by local councils are causing deep offence to many ratepayers (Labour shouts of "Where?"). I agree that a return to normal work by striking miners would be the best thing for their families and for the country. All on this side would welcome that very much indeed.

Mr David Nellist, one of the Labour MPs prominent in Wednesday night's disturbances, was severely rebuked by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, during questions on next week's business.

What Mr Nellist engaged in last night (Mr Biffen said) was a destruction of parliamentary procedures. It was not only offensive to the House but also to the Opposition Front Bench.

Mr Nellist (Coventry South East), referring to next Monday's debate in Opposition time on the reduction in value of the supplementary benefit for the families of miners on strike, described the Government's action as theft.

The decision was an act of desperation by the Government (he said).

Tory MPs seek end to equality commission

DISCRIMINATION

A review of the operations of the Equal Opportunities Commission is currently taking place and the conclusions will be announced in the spring, Mr David Waddington, Minister of State, Home Office, told the Commons.

But responding to Conservative MPs who suggested the Commission be abolished, Mr Waddington said the Government had no plans to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 under which it was established.

Mr Andrew McKay (East Berkshire, C), who opened the exchanges, said that since its inception in 1975 the Commission has only investigated eight cases of discrimination. He said that the only published reports in four of these and only issued a non-discrimination notice once.

It is (he said) high time this quango which costs nearly £2.5 million a year to run was abolished. (Conservative cheers)

Mr Waddington: Formal investigations are only a part of the work of the commission. In fairness he ought to hear the full range of the work of the commission and the fact that in 1983, for instance, commission staff resolved 339 complaints without recourse to litigation or formal investigations.

It is obviously right for the Government to review the operations of non-departmental bodies from time to time. Such a regular review is taking place and the conclusions will be announced in the spring.

Mr Renee Short (Wolverhampton North East, Lab): Mr Norman Fowler, general secretary of the TUC, said on the radio this morning that the TUC had collected information about the effect of privatisation in hospitals showing that cleaning firms were using girls of 15 to clean hospital wards. In addition, there were being paid lower wages than the women who had previously been employed.

The minister ought to be referring this practice to the commission and strengthening them in the job they do.

Mr Waddington: It does not need a minister to refer a matter to the commission, it is in her own hands.

Mrs Jill Knight (Barnham and Edgworth, C): There are many who believe the Commission has exhausted what opportunities it may have had. Is Mr Waddington going to say that the Government can spend £3,336,000 on this?

Mr Waddington: Although we have a duty to see that appropriate management systems are used and that money is not wasted, at the same time we also have an obligation to see that discrimination on grounds of sex is done away with. We have no plans to amend the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which was directed to that end.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be a debate on Opposition motion on social security benefits for strikers' families. Social Security Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on the national heritage and environment.

Wednesday: Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, completion of remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on the Royal Navy.

Friday: Private Member's motion on the licensing laws.

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No cut in overseas aid: Unesco told Britain will leave

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The announcement by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, that Britain was giving notice to Unesco of withdrawal from that organization at the end of next year was greeted with protests from both sides of the Commons during the debate on public expenditure on overseas aid. He said that the position would be reconsidered at the end of next year in the light of the result of the general election to be held then. The decision about the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization would have no effect on 1985-86 expenditure but would keep Britain's options open.

He also announced that there would be no cut in overseas aid at the previously planned figure of £1.13bn, but some cuts in the British Council budget, in Foreign Office work commissioned from the Central Office of Information and in the military aid programme.

The debate was opened by Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber, L) moved a Liberal SDP motion favouring a reduction in the real value of the already limited overseas aid budget and rejecting proposals to maintain the budget by cutting expenditure on the British Council or the BBC external services.

He said overseas aid represented only about one penny in the pound in terms of public spending. In the past, governments of Labour and Conservative, had cut the overseas aid budget.

Perceptions of the problem had been heightened and sharpened by the horrifying pictures of the Ethiopian famine. Parliament could respond to public feeling without any effort to party loyalties by saying firmly that it was up to the Government to solve its inter-departmental disputes, that Parliament would not see the further reduction in the limited contribution too the starving people.

In public terms (he added) the challenge now is to channel the generosity into some sort of long-term action to prevent these things happening again.

The Foreign Office Government was not by any definition an easy one for Britain to relate to. But it was perfectly possible to devise means of helping its people, as was suggested in a centre page article in the Times (Thursday) by James Picken.

Many people felt the IMF should be more flexible and more sensitive to the problems of agricultural producers, food supplies and trade. Someone had called it an international menace to food.

In the past there had been too much stress on tied aid and too little on agricultural development. He would like to see two types of aid, that related to trade, and aid, pure, direct and simple.

Sir Geoffrey Howe moved a Government amendment commending the Government's substantial support for development in the Third World including the encouragement of trade and investment, welcoming its prompt response to the famine in Ethiopia and elsewhere, approving the maintenance of the Government's planned aid programme consistent with its overall economic and foreign policy objectives; and endorsing the Government's continued support for the British Council and the BBC external services.

He said nobody doubted the importance of the tragedy taking place in Ethiopia. It was not the case that the British Government's response was only yesterday. Since 1982, it had given more emergency relief to Ethiopia than any other country. It was important to recognize the scale of the response. Britain had taken a lead in the EEC which had been appreciated by the people and government of Ethiopia.

The wider context was the continuing need to retain tight control of overall public spending. He vigorously supported the Chancellor's objectives. The economic recovery over the last three years could all too easily be put at risk if the Government lost sight of the central question. (Labour interruptions)

He was therefore writing to the Director General, giving notice of withdrawal, the notice becoming effective on December 31 1985. (Protests)

We shall reconsider the position at the end of next year (he said) in the light of the result of the general election. This decision will not have any effect on expenditure for 1985-86 but by giving notice now we retain the option for 1986 of being able to devote to better purposes the amount which would otherwise be paid to Unesco.

Mr David Waddington (Walsall, North, Lab): This is a shameful decision and simply follows the line of the United States.

Sir Geoffrey Howe said they were working hard to secure the necessary changes and it would be foolish to discard the option now, if

the money could be better spent elsewhere.

The military aid programme amounted to about £12 million and was a useful arm of foreign policy. The amount was divided equally between sending British military personnel overseas to train certain countries' armed forces and receiving trainees from those forces here. Economies of £500,000 a year would give less scope to respond to requests at short notice but existing commitments would be fulfilled as planned.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's own information activity cost £22 million, mostly by payments to the Central Office of Information for a wide variety of services. Some economies could be made without loss of effectiveness and commitments to the COI would be scaled down by about £1 million.

The British Council was celebrating its 50th anniversary. 70 years of solid achievement. The council had to live in a world of changing costs. It must absorb part of its own rising costs as part of the overall need to keep down Government expenditure.

He would look to the council for £1.2 million savings, about half the total rise in costs this year. The Council would receive almost 25 million more in 1985-86 than its original planned provision.

There had been strong support expressed in many parts of the House for the BBC's external services which had more than 100 million regular listeners around the world. The fact that so many of those denied honest news by their own national media should turn to the BBC for an unbiased account was a national treasure.

But the BBC had also had to face some increase in costs and he did not believe it would be right to meet them in full. He would be looking for savings of about 1 per cent in their total expenditure.

Nevertheless, there would still be an increased provision for the external services of about £750,000.

The capital programme, costing more than £100 million approved in 1981 to improve the audibility of the service was well advanced and would be maintained with additional funds of more than £2 million for the capital programme was in addition to the increase of £750,000.

The provision for the programme of overseas aid remained unchanged at the previously planned and published figure of £1,130 million for 1985-86. That figure was being maintained. Within that figure, Britain's capacity to provide emergency assistance to Ethiopia and other countries suffering from drought and famine would be fully maintained.

The aid programme was only part of the story. Private capital played a vital and increasing role for many developing countries. British investment could make a particularly important contribution.

Mr Stuart Holland, Opposition spokesman on overseas development, said the Government's claim that there had not been a cut in the aid programme had to be taken against a background in which that being provided. The Government had had 18 months' warning of the Ethiopian crisis but it did not act until October.

He deplored what the Foreign Secretary had said about Unesco. It was disappointing and unwarranted. Mr Edward Heath, (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said all they wanted to know was that if the currency movement proved to be more damaging, the Foreign Secretary would ensure that in real terms that sum remained the same.

He would have hoped the Foreign Secretary would have been able to announce he had been able to convince his colleagues that in the national interest and influence of the Government would give more to the BBC overseas service and to the British Council.

The decision on Unesco was lamentable and quite illogical. It never increased their influence in by opting out. No one would say there was anything wrong with Unesco. Britain should get together with its EEC and Commonwealth and agree what was required. Nobody could resist that.

He confirmed that the overall provision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1985-86 remained as previously planned at £1,870 million. There had been no cut in that overall figure. More specific figures would be in the White Paper to be published early next year in the customary way. Press speculation had been thoroughly misleading and had caused unjustified anxiety.

The volume of work being handled by the Foreign Office and the diplomatic missions abroad was growing and becoming increasingly complex.

Two changes would be made. As from January 1, 1985, the standard fee for entry clearance on foreign nationals coming to the United Kingdom would increase from £5 to £10. That would raise in a full year £2.4 million.

From the same date a fee would be payable to cover part of the administrative costs of issuing entry certificates to Commonwealth citizens, which would be set at £10. This would raise about £1.6 million in a full year. This would represent a relatively small addition to the total cost of travel of that kind.

The Diplomatic Service had been able to respond to rising demand with substantially reduced manpower. The service cost less than half the cost of running the London Borough of Haringey, and was giving better and better value for money.

In some places, notably in the Middle East, there was a real need to provide increased security and since that cost was rising, it made sense to consider whether they needed to maintain precisely the same geographical pattern.

It was right to close about 10 small posts, almost all of them subordinate posts, and he would give fuller details later, after consultations had been completed. It was not a new process, as 32 posts had been closed under the last Labour Government.

Britain was also not satisfied that the developing world was getting value from Unesco and had long been looking for reform. The process of putting forward a number of practical proposals. Some progress had been made and he acknowledged the importance of the views of Commonwealth and Community members, but much remained to be done.

The general conference next autumn had a key part to play and throughout 1985 they would continue to be looking for reform. He had decided that it would be vigorously as they had this year. They could not, however, be confident that adequate reforms would be achieved by the end of the year.

Johnston: Only television made the Government act

next year, and must safeguard their position.

He was therefore writing to the Director General, giving notice of withdrawal, the notice becoming effective on December 31 1985. (Protests)

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The British Council was celebrating its 50th anniversary. 70 years of solid achievement. The council had to live in a world of changing costs. It must absorb part of its own rising costs as part of the overall need to keep down Government expenditure.

He would look to the council for £1.2 million savings, about half the total rise in costs this year. The Council would receive almost 25 million more in 1985-86 than its original planned provision.

There had been strong support expressed in many parts of the House for the BBC's external services which had more than 100 million regular listeners around the world. The fact that so many of those denied honest news by their own national media should turn to the BBC for an unbiased account was a national treasure.

But the BBC had also had to face some increase in costs and he did not believe it would be right to meet them in full. He would be looking for savings of about 1 per cent in their total expenditure.

Nevertheless, there would still be an increased provision for the external services of about £750,000.

The capital programme, costing more than £100 million approved in 1981 to improve the audibility of the service was well advanced and would be maintained with additional funds of more than £2 million for the capital programme was in addition to the increase of £750,000.

The provision for the programme of overseas aid remained unchanged at the previously planned and published figure of £1,130 million for 1985-86. That figure was being maintained. Within that figure, Britain's capacity to provide emergency assistance to Ethiopia and other countries suffering from drought and famine would be fully maintained.

The aid programme was only part of the story. Private capital played a vital and increasing role for many developing countries. British investment could make a particularly important contribution.

Mr Stuart Holland, Opposition spokesman on overseas development, said the Government's claim that there had not been a cut in the aid programme had to be taken against a background in which that being provided. The Government had had 18 months' warning of the Ethiopian crisis but it did not act until October.

He deplored what the Foreign Secretary had said about Unesco. It was disappointing and unwarranted. Mr Edward Heath, (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said all they wanted to know was that if the currency movement proved to be more damaging, the Foreign Secretary would ensure that in real terms that sum remained the same.

He would have hoped the Foreign Secretary would have been able to announce he had been able to convince his colleagues that in the national interest and influence of the Government would give more to the BBC overseas service and to the British Council.

The decision on Unesco was lamentable and quite illogical. It never increased their influence in by opting out. No one would say there was anything wrong with Unesco. Britain should get together with its EEC and Commonwealth and agree what was required. Nobody could resist that.

The increase range of pesticide types and systems of application as well as likely increase in competition make it no longer feasible to control the environmental effects of pesticides at the approval stage alone, therefore the Government proposed statutory controls, Lord Belstead, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during the second reading of the Food and Environment Protection Bill in the House of Lords.

The Bill provides for the protection of food in the aftermath of a release of harmful substances.

The Bill was read a second time.

He confirmed that the overall provision of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1985-86 remained as previously planned at £1,870 million. There had been no cut in that overall figure. More specific figures would be in the White Paper to be published early next year in the customary way. Press speculation had been thoroughly misleading and had caused unjustified anxiety.

The volume of work being handled by the Foreign Office and the diplomatic missions abroad was growing and becoming increasingly complex.

Two changes would be made. As from January 1, 1985, the standard fee for entry clearance on foreign nationals coming to the United Kingdom would increase from £5 to £10. That would raise in a full year £2.4 million.

From the same date a fee would be payable to cover part of the administrative costs of issuing entry certificates to Commonwealth citizens, which would be set at £10. This would raise about £1.6 million in a full year. This would represent a relatively small addition to the total cost of travel of that kind.

The Diplomatic Service had been able to respond to rising demand with substantially reduced manpower. The service cost less than half the cost of running the London Borough of Haringey, and was giving better and better value for money.

In some places, notably in the Middle East, there was a real need to provide increased security and since that cost was rising, it made sense to consider whether they needed to maintain precisely the same geographical pattern.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

There does not seem much chance now that anything of substance will come from the dialogue begun this week between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Dr Garret FitzGerald.

It is hard to believe after the exchange of criticisms between them that the Irish electorate would be likely to agree to the amendment of sections 2 and 3 of their constitution. Yet the acceptance of British sovereignty in Northern Ireland would be the necessary condition for any successful negotiation.

If Dr FitzGerald thought that the prospect of a settlement was still alive he would presumably not have blown his top. That he did so suggests that he now thinks it more important to repair his political bridges at home than to pursue a settlement with Britain which is no longer available.

That Mrs Thatcher spoke as she did in the House of Commons yesterday suggests that she believes that the present dialogue is doomed. Otherwise she would hardly have dismissed Dr FitzGerald's complaints so brusquely as to say that she did not understand his statement in any way.

Lack of finesse in British diplomacy

If this pessimistic analysis is correct it is a pity. An agreement between the British and Irish governments based upon the acceptance by the Irish people that they no longer claimed sovereignty over the whole of Ireland would have been the most hopeful development for the North for many years.

The present impasse can be attributed partly to a lack of finesse in British diplomacy, but also to a more fundamental division on the substance of policy.

At the end of the negotiations at Chequers there were no specific agreements, except on pursuing the dialogue, but both sides thought that they had established a good relationship. Mrs Thatcher liked Dr FitzGerald and his ministerial colleagues, which is not unimportant.

But then came Mrs Thatcher's press conference on Monday evening, followed by her remarks in the House of Commons on Tuesday, and then Mr Douglas Hurd's press conference in Belfast on Wednesday.

The Irish have three principal complaints: that the tone of those comments did not correspond with the way in which the issues had been discussed at Chequers; that the detailed proposals in the New Ireland Forum report were dismissed in summary fashion without acknowledging its broadly constructive and conciliatory approach; and that in playing down the idea that there was alienation among Roman Catholics in the north, British ministers were rejecting out of hand the basic analysis of the Irish Government.

It would be difficult to acquit British ministers of the charge of diplomatic clumsiness. In their choice of words they might have shown more appreciation of Dr FitzGerald's position. To display sensitivity in the conduct of diplomacy is not weakness but commonsense.

It would also have been wise to accept, as British ministers have in effect done in the past, that there is alienation among many Roman Catholics in the north. If there were not, the British Government has been wasting its time in seeking any kind of new political arrangement. It is not a bad principle in politics to look unpleasant facts in the face.

But British Ministers are right that joint authority in Northern Ireland cannot be conceded to the republic, either by the front or the back door. There was specific disagreement at Chequers on that point in relation to a joint security commission.

The Irish saw that as a means to share authority in the north. British ministers insisted that there could be no more than consultation. Had they failed to do so, they would have been allowing the negotiations to proceed on a fraudulent basis. No state can concede ultimate authority over its internal security without compromising its own sovereignty.

The only way in which agreement might have been reached on that question could have been for the Irish to be prepared to build on the basis of consultation. They might have achieved a good deal of practical influence in that way.

But perhaps their failure to do so shows that the gap in policy remains too wide to be bridged. In that case, this episode will have confirmed in sad and bitter fashion that there is still no common ground in the province.

Civil servants' leaks unethical, ex-Whitehall chief says

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Lord Croom, former head of the Civil Service, yesterday came down firmly on the Government's side in its battle against leaks of sensitive or politically embarrassing information.

Lord Croom, who as Sir Douglas Allen was head of the Home Civil Service in the 1970s, expressed surprise at the vehemence of his rejection of any ethical responsibility on civil servants to leak, even when their ministers were caught lying.

Lord Croom left no doubt that he had the case of the former Foreign Office clerk, Miss Sarah Tisdall, in mind. He said: "Those who advocate an ethical duty of civil servants to inform on ministers, while remaining in their posts, have almost certainly not realized how intolerable that would be to civil servants and ministers alike."

He denounced as "extraordinary" the argument that civil servants had a duty to leak when they believed ministers were not telling the truth.

Delivering a lecture at the University of Salford, Lord Croom damned with faint praise the idea of "freedom of information" saying that the

notion was being manipulated by those who wanted to make it more difficult for the Government to govern.

Lord Croom, who is now chairman of the British National Oil Corporation, remains in touch with his former colleagues and his remarks undoubtedly reflect the views of senior mandarins.

In a phrase that will delight the Prime Minister, he said there was an inverse correlation between the practicability of open government and the proportion of our national activity which is state controlled. In other words, the less the state does, the less need there is for secrecy.

It was "foolish" to put forward the idea of the public interest to defend civil servants who leaked classified material. The growth of leaking had nothing to do with excessive secrecy, the main recent leaks had occurred in areas which would be protected even if a freedom of information law were passed.

"Civil servants are servants of the Crown with defined duties to the government of the day, in which to all intents and purposes the concept of the Crown is embodied."

Barrister stole colleague's cheques

A deputy circuit judge stole cheques sent to a colleague at his chambers because he was in financial difficulties, Hertford magistrates were told yesterday.

Peter Morris, a barrister, described in court as a specialist in crime, also used a cheque for £246 to open a building society account using a false name. But on his visits to the Norwich Building Society branch in Peterborough he was unaware that he was being filmed.

When he was confronted with his crimes, Morris, aged 46, first claimed that his son was a drug addict and had stolen the cheques and then that he, Morris, had needed the money to pay for an abortion for his girl friend. Both claims were false, the court was told.

Yesterday, Morris, of Milton Road, Cambridge, admitted theft, obtaining by deception, and forgery. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment concurrently on each charge, suspended for two years.

Miss Claire Reggiori, for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court that in September Mr Walter Hawkesworth, a colleague of Morris returned to his Cambridge chambers and found that a cheque for £246 sent to him was missing from the clerk's office.

He discovered that the cheque had been paid into the Norwich Building Society branch. Morris had opened the account in the name of Hawkesworth.



Family struggle: Mrs Ayse Halli, a Turkish Cypriot, pictured yesterday with her family, which may be split up by a deportation order.

A lengthy battle to prevent her deportation from Britain is expected to come to a head within a few days as the Home Office considers fresh representations by Mr John Silkin, MP, for Mrs Halli, who lives in Brockley, south-east

London with her daughter Shebneem, aged 12, and her sons Sabah, aged 13, and Serhan, aged 7. If she has to leave she will have to take her daughter with her. Mrs Halli's parents have been British citizens since 1947. In 1971 they came to live in Britain with their son Ahmed. Ayse Halli followed shortly with her Cypriot husband, Ahmed, who was granted British citizenship.

But Mrs Halli was held to have the same nationality as her husband and they were deported in 1981 shortly before her third child was born. While in Cyprus she separated from her husband and last year returned to her family in England, but was faced with another deportation order. Last night relatives held a candlelight demonstration outside the Home Office.

High Nissan pay lures Austin men away

By Clifford Webb

Motoring Correspondent Nissan, the Japanese car company, has lured 19 senior managers from the British car industry to run the car assembly plant it is building at Washington, Tyne-and-Wear. The prime target for the "head-hunters" was Austin Rover's Cowley complex, from which six manufacturing staff were taken.

Others came from Ford, Vauxhall, Rolls-Royce, and Land Rover. All are believed to have been tempted away by up to twice their existing salaries.

At Cowley, however, an equally important factor was managers' frustration with production losses caused by wildcat strikes and constant pressure from directors for improved results.

Nissan has insisted on a single union for its 500 Washington employees and a no-strike agreement.

The most senior Austin Rover recruit is Mr. John Cusnaghan, aged 38, the manufacturing manager at Cowley South works. He joins Nissan next week at a reported salary of £30,000 as production director. Mr. Cusnaghan was quoted in *The Engineer* as describing the move as "an opportunity I could not miss".

Nissan originally set its sights even higher. An offer by the company was rejected by Mr. Andrew Barr, one of the two joint managing directors at Austin Rover.

Tourist and petrol road signs sought

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government was urged yesterday to allow more road signs advertising national historic monuments, petrol stations, hotels, restaurants and other services.

The French practice of signposting castles and other buildings of interest when they are visible from main roads, and approved flag signs for hotels and restaurants, paid for by their operators, should be adopted, according to Mr Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for North Cornwall.

He launched his campaign in a letter to Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport. It called for a more informative, imaginative and commercial roads policy.

Millions of vehicles used the M4 out of London each year, it said, yet there was no sign pointing out Windsor Castle.

Mr Neale said signposting on local roads to tourist facilities and attractions was poor and inconsistent. Approved flag signs should become the responsibility of local parish and town councils.

He suggested a standard programme for signs for amenities such as fun parks, museums, potteries, bed and breakfast facilities and tea shops, all of which might bear a county symbol if desired.

Mr Neale said that the proposals would be likely to encourage tourists and so increase employment potential and help small businesses. On suggestions that installing more signs would create road safety dangers, he said that road users' hesitation when unable to find signs was already a danger. Standard signs might be expected to improve the environment in many areas where undesirable signs were proliferating.

He asked Mr Ridley to invite county councils to join the Department of Transport, in starting a comprehensive liberalised sign policy.

Cable sponsors find favour

Most people will support sponsored programmes on cable television, chiefly because they oppose regulation of the medium, according to a survey by MORI commissioned by the National Consumer Council.

The council said yesterday that 61 per cent of people interviewed favoured sponsored programmes and 18 per cent were against. On sponsorship, 19 per cent thought it would bring better programmes, 14 per cent that it would make cable cheaper, and 12 per cent that it would bring a better choice of programmes.

Research ship's delivery delayed

A one-year research programme in the Indian Ocean has been postponed, perhaps until 1986, because of delays in the delivery of a £7.25m ship.

The Government-backed Natural Environment Research Council said yesterday that the 2,300-tonne floating laboratory, Charles Darwin, had been due for completion by British Shipbuilders last February. But she had been dogged by propeller noise problems and is still being modified at Falmouth, Cornwall.

Hole in one

Mrs Jean Mason, aged 55, of Shaldon, Devon, had a hole in one on two consecutive days this week at the Teignmouth Golf Club. A club member said yesterday they will name the hole after her.

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Arafat arrival in Jordan finalizes the PLO break with Damascus

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Under the protection of the king who drove it from Jordan in 1970, Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) last night prepared to formalize the split that has torn apart the Palestinian guerrilla movement for more than 18 months.

While Palestinian groups opposed to Mr Arafat were still threatening to create a rival PLO in Damascus, Mr Arafat's decision to turn up in Amman for the meeting of the PLO's Palestine National Council - still rather pompously called a "parliament-in-exile" - also means that his own break with Syria is now final.

Despite the absence of about 180 members of the Palestine National Council who live in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and who were prevented by the Israelis from travelling to Amman, the "parliament" achieved a quorum of its 379 members, thus producing the constitutional legitimacy which the PLO so often seeks for its own movement and so rarely respects in others.

It was, of course, not lost on the Syrians that the meeting was to be inaugurated by King Hussein of Jordan, the very man who broke the power of the PLO 14 years ago by driving it into Lebanon and, ultimately,

into further disaster. Syria's condemnation of the whole affair as a betrayal of the Arab cause was made even sharper by the fact that the Palestine National Council meeting might otherwise have been held in Damascus under the stern auspices of the Syrian Baath Party.

The editor of the Syrian party newspaper *Al Baath* used some stock rhetoric yesterday in condemning Mr Arafat as "a traitor at the service of Zionist and imperialist masters" and gave a warning that the Palestine people "will know how to punish him" for "liquidating forever the Palestine cause".

The daily Damascus paper *Tishrin* compared Mr Arafat to the assassinated President Sadat of Egypt, a comparison that illustrated Syria's own fear that the Palestine National Council in Amman will give a mandate to King Hussein to negotiate another peace agreement with Israel.

Extremist Palestinian groups based in Damascus, together with the PLO guerrilla units, who broke away from Mr Arafat last year, were encouraged to echo the same sort of diatribes.

By contrast, Jordanian newspapers trumpeted King

Husain's leading role in the Palestine National Council meeting. Jordan has a 26-strong Government delegation at the conference, which is also expected to be addressed by Mr Chadi Klibi, the General Secretary of the Arab League and Mr Habib al-Chatti, the Secretary-General of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Mr Arafat himself will have to win a vote of confidence from the Palestine National Council - something which should be achieved with little difficulty since all those in Amman are his supporters - and delegates will then discuss the prospects for a Palestinian homeland.

They will find King Hussein as personally pessimistic as ever, although the aftermath of the American elections does give President Reagan his own peace plan for the region.

If the Palestine National Council does give its support to King Hussein to start talks with the Israelis on the return of the West Bank, then the delegates in Amman will have to try to safeguard their own independence afterwards. To be muzzled by the Jordanians once such a "peace" process begins may turn out to be almost as painful as being muzzled by the Syrians.

Israelis kill second student protester

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah

For the second time in 24 hours, Israeli troops yesterday killed an unarmed Palestinian demonstrator while firing live ammunition to disperse a West Bank demonstration staged in support of Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Another 16-year-old protester was hit in the thigh during the incident, bringing to seven the number of young Arabs wounded by Israeli Army gunfire in the occupied territories during the past two days.

A senior doctor at Ramallah hospital said that the dead youth, Mr Bakir Abdullah, aged 21, had died on the operating table from chest and abdominal wounds received from a single high velocity bullet. Dismayed relatives attempted to defy a

military order imposed by troops ringing the building and take away the body for burial.

The revival of what Palestinians here describe angrily as Israel's "shoot-to-kill policy" in the West Bank has dealt a severe blow to efforts by the national unity Government to improve the atmosphere among the 1.3 million Arabs now living under military rule. "It just proves that the Labour Party is no different from the Likud," one local merchant, who asked not to be named, said.

He was referring to the fact that since September, the West Bank has been under the overall control of Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Defence Minister. In an apparent attempt to reduce the latest tension, Mr

Rabin rejected demands from senior army officers to close Bir Zeit, the Arab university, where a student demonstrator was shot dead on Wednesday.

However, the Arab governing body shut the campus yesterday in mourning. In a bitterly worded statement, it called on academics throughout the world to join a campaign to prevent "the use of raw and indiscriminate force by the Army against defenceless students".

According to a Palestinian journalist who witnessed yesterday's shooting, trouble began after a group of schoolgirls waving black flags gathered in Ramallah's main square to protest against the shooting of the Bir Zeit student. They were quickly joined by about 50 youths chanting slogans

Opposition heals rift on call-up

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The parliamentary caucus of the progressive Federal Party, the main opposition in the white chamber of the South African Parliament, yesterday endorsed two controversial decisions taken by the party's federal council last weekend, which called for an end to compulsory military conscription and opened membership of the party to all races.

Dr Frederick van Zyl Slabbert, the Afrikaans leader of the predominantly English-speaking party convened the caucus after the resignation of the spokesman on defence and moves by other senior members to call a federal congress of the party to try to reverse the decisions.

On the question of military conscription, which is compulsory for all white males, Dr van Zyl Slabbert seems to have persuaded most caucus members that the new position is no great departure from previous policy, which has long favoured a professional all-volunteer army.

He agreed that by opening its doors to all races the party would be violating the Prohibition of Political Interference Act, which bans racially-mixed parties, but argued that the law had already been flouted by the Labour Party in August's elections to the new Coloured Chamber of Parliament.

Angola dam

Lisbon (Reuters) - Angola has signed a \$900m (£750m) agreement with Brazil and the Soviet Union for the construction of a hydroelectric plant on the river Kwanza, 250 miles south of Luanda, a Portuguese news agency reported.

Washington to resume its links with Iraq

Washington (Reuters) - The United States and Iraq will announce on Monday that they are resuming diplomatic talks broken after the 1976 Arab-Israeli war, American officials said.

They believed the move would help to strengthen Iraq's more moderate stance in the Middle East.

The renewed ties, due to be announced when the Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr Tariq Aziz meets President Reagan at the White House, will "put a

symbolic political stamp on relations that have been developing for some time", one US official said.

The Reagan Administration has for several years expressed willingness to heal the breach, and Baghdad's decision to do so gives Washington a foreign policy advantage.

The move will not affect Washington's official policy of neutrality in the Iran-Iraq war. But the US has long blamed the continuation of the war on Iran's "intransigence".



● STILL QUEUING: A Polish family waiting for food yesterday at a Hamburg refugee centre after defecting this week. Another 17 Poles jumped ship when their liner made a stop on the northern port of Travemünde, bringing to 302 the number arriving in West Germany in less than a week.



Eyes left: Lebanon's US-trained special forces on parade in Beirut yesterday

Syria ousts US in Gemayel's rhetoric of gratitude

From Our Own Correspondent, Beirut

Last year, it was President Reagan who was thanked so profusely for his efforts to reunite Lebanon after eight years of civil war. Yesterday President Gemayel was expressing his deep gratitude to President Assad of Syria for his "continuous and tireless"

efforts to resolve the nine-year old civil war.

Thus were the shifting allegiances of Lebanon represented at yesterday's Independence Day ceremony outside Beirut, as three Hawker Hunter jets, the entire Lebanese Air Force, flew overhead.

The Gemayel speech included the now mandatory references to the liberation of southern Lebanon from the

Israeli occupation army - "Lebanon's salvation begins with the salvation of the south", the President said - but there was, needless to say, no mention of the large Syrian Army in eastern and northern Lebanon.

Lebanese troops from the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade of the National Army sent a token contingent to the Independence Day parade in

the Christian suburb of Yarz, Mr Gemayel did talk of a new national charter for Lebanon - something which opposition Muslim groups have long demanded - but gave no details. The sound of small arms fire could be heard during the ceremony from the hills to the south of Yarz, where Lebanon's civil war was still being fought out between the Army and Druze militia.

González appeals for calm

Protest strike halts Basque country

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Basque region was almost completely paralysed by a one-day general strike yesterday. The stoppage was called to protest against the killing in Bilbao of Tuesday of a leading left-wing nationalist politician closely linked to ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

Public transport, banks, shops, schools, universities and even government offices shut down. Clashes, fierce at times, took place in Bilbao and San Sebastian between demonstrators and the police. Barricades put up by workers stopped private cars reaching industrial areas.

In Madrid meanwhile, doctors were fighting to save the life of General Luis Rosón, who was seriously wounded by two gunmen from ETA's military wing in a Madrid street hours after the Bilbao killing. The general's condition was reported to be worsening.

As tension rose, Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, urged Spaniards yesterday not to overreact. "If anyone knows of a better solution let

him tell us", he said. He claimed that, by acting firmly, his government was slowly beating the terrorists.

Yesterday's general strike preceded the funeral of Dr Santiago Brouard, head of one of the parties in the Basque nationalist "People's Unity" coalition, which regards the degree of autonomy granted to the Basque country as inadequate.

The coalition told Basque socialists not to take part in the funeral as it might be regarded as a provocation. Wrapped in the red, white and green Basque flag, the coffin was to be taken in a procession from Bilbao town hall to Leizor, a fishing port along the coast, for burial. Strong detachments of police guarded the route.

A bar in Bilbao, said to be frequented by drug addicts, was blown up yesterday for the second time in a few days. BTA claimed responsibility, as it did for an overnight explosion which damaged a San Sebastian supermarket.

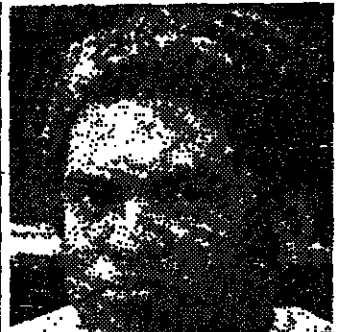
In the face of protests from Basque marchers, the Senate approved on Wednesday night an anti-terrorist law which increases penalties for terrorist crimes and reduces the sentences of those who repent.

The Bill, provoked by the killing of an army captain a year ago, also permits the Government to close down news media if it deems that they are defending terrorism.

● BAYONNE: Tomás Linaza Etchevarria, an alleged ETA leader, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment here yesterday (Reuters reports). He was charged with illegal possession of arms and breaking a residence order.

Five others, all alleged members of an anarchist group called the Anti-Capitalist Autonomous Commandos, an ETA splinter organization, were given sentences ranging from six months to a year.

Linaza Etchevarria was arrested on September 29 in Biarritz and is wanted by Spain in connexion with seven alleged murders.



Mr Athulathmudali: Fear of false rumours

Sri Lanka's 30 hours of curfew

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

Sri Lankans awoke yesterday to find that a 30-hour curfew had come into force at midnight and would remain in operation till six this morning.

As only one newspaper had carried a stop press announcement, news of the curfew was broadcast at 10-minute intervals by the state-owned radio and spread by word of mouth.

While most people rushed to buy food, which soared in price, early officegoers and schoolchildren were directed home by police. The Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said there had been only one isolated incident late on Wednesday night which had been put down effectively and firmly with no injury or loss of life but that anti-social elements would try to create trouble by spreading false rumours.

In the incident the Minister referred to, a Tamil shop at Thimbirigassaya in Colombo was set on fire by unknown persons.

Mr Athulathmudali said the Government was not over-reacting but had imposed the curfew as a purely precautionary measure.

Parliament met yesterday to continue its budget debate, and the Minister of Lands, Mr Gamini Bissanayake said the curfew had been imposed because the Government did not want to run the risk of a repetition of the ethnic disturbances in July 1983 in which more than 400 people died.

Yesterday and today were declared holidays and curfew permits were issued at police stations only to those engaged in essential services and airline passengers.

To ensure that there is no breakdown in food supplies the state-owned cooperative wholesale establishment, the marketing department, and the port cargo corporation were declared essential services and bakers were directed to bake as much bread as possible for which flour supplies were made available.

Streets in Colombo and all over the island were deserted with no public or private transport.

EEC rules out deal on UK plane

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

A small West Indies airline has been told that it will have to buy a Franco-Italian aircraft rather than a British one if it is to qualify for an EEC loan to cover the £16m purchase price.

The European Commission yesterday rejected the arguments from Leeward Island Air Transport for buying a new fleet of four British Aerospace Super748 and insisted that the loan money would be available only for the purchase of the ATR42, still being developed by Aerospace in France.

Last week, the airline put new figures to the Commission which, it believed, proved beyond doubt that the 748 was much the better aircraft to replace its old fleet. But yesterday the commission said that even the worst estimates showed the ATR42 was superior.

The Commission has therefore asked the Caribbean Development Bank, which is arranging the loan, to put forward a new scheme.

FitzGerald criticizes 'big four'

From Ian Murray, Brussels

To try to build the EEC on its present budget of 1985, Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister said in Brussels last night.

In a "state of the EEC" speech to the centre for European Policy Studies, the current President of the European Council argued that the time was now ripe for the Community to build.

But it was impossible on the present budget of something like 1 per cent of the community's wealth. For real progress something of the order of between 3 and 7 per cent would be needed.

Dr FitzGerald, who presides at the European summit next month, pleaded for the vision necessary to identify the need for a further breakthrough towards European union.

There was wide criticism for the way in which Ireland saw the four big countries of the Community - Britain, France, West Germany and Italy - trying to run the Community

that their interests could best be served by being pursued separately rather than jointly with the smaller countries. He did not believe that any of the larger countries had come to terms with the fact that, there were only two military superpowers (the US and the Soviet Union) and two economic superpowers (the US and Japan).

Soviet lead in chess

Salonika (Reuters) - The Soviet Union held a commanding lead after three rounds of the twenty-sixth Chess Olympiad here after beating Hungary 4-0.

The Dutch team, fresh from a 3-1 defeat of India and now the Russians' closest rivals on the standings table, faces the Soviet team in the fourth round.

● ATHENS: The withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad has been delayed but is now "going very well", the Libyan Foreign Minister, Mr Ali Abdel-Salam al-Turki, said here yesterday.

"The French understand very well that because of the geographical problem there might be a delay in the complete withdrawal of our element of support", he said.

Lead standings - men
Soviet Union 12; Netherlands 10.5; England 10; West Germany 9; Romania 8.5; Yugoslavia 8; Israel 8; Sweden 8.5.

Women's third round results
China 2.5; England 0.5; Bulgaria 3; West Germany 0; Romania 3; Netherlands 3; Soviet Union 2.5; Spain 0.5; Poland 1.5; Yugoslavia 1.5.

Women's lead standings
China, Bulgaria 8.5; Soviet Union, Romania 7.5; Sweden 7.0; Yugoslavia, India, Hungary, England, Poland 6.5.

Police lay siege to Cairo campus

Cairo (Reuters) - Egyptian police charged at thousands of student demonstrators at Cairo's al-Azhar University, using tear gas and batons, eye-witnesses said. Several students were injured.

One student said the demonstration was in favour of strict Islamic dress for female students and better conditions at the 1,000-year-old university, which attracts Muslim students from all over the world.

The students retreated to the faculty grounds, throwing bricks, wooden signs and stones, and barricaded themselves inside.

Lome nations agree deal

Brussels - Very reluctantly, leaders of the 64 developing countries associated with the EEC were prepared yesterday to accept a £4,500m aid deal over five years (Ian Murry writes).

They had the terms of this third Lomé Convention spelled out to them in detail in Brussels, noting it was for £300m more than had been offered last month.

Final details of the new convention are to be ironed out by officials before the formal signing, due in Lomé, the capital of Togo, on December 8.

Bolivian crisis as two quit

La Paz (Reuters) - Bolivia's left wing coalition Government was plunged into a Cabinet crisis a few hours after the political parties accepted an offer by President Siles Zuñiga to step down a year early and call elections on June 16.

The ministers for Labour and Mining, both Communists, resigned when the President rejected proposals to nationalize a local bank and a grain mill.

Peru dismissal

The commander of Peru's Civil Guard, the paramilitary police force, General Juan Bolognesi, has been dismissed pending investigation of a charge by the Comptroller-General's office that \$600,000 (£500,000) intended for the acquisition of police equipment had been misappropriated.

Marcos doubts

Manila (AP) - Cardinal Jaime Sin, Archbishop of Manila, said he was not convinced by official claims that President Marcos was seriously ill. The Government's reputation for telling the truth was "the worst imaginable", he said. Political killings, page 12

Romania's man

Bucharest (Reuters) - President Nicolae Ceausescu was unanimously reelected Communist Party general secretary for another five-year term. In its closing session, the party congress adopted his policy report, setting the seal on further economic austerity.

Body dumped

Dhaka (AP) - The beheaded and mutilated body of a senior vice-chairman of the Bangladesh People's League, Mathub Alam, aged 43, was found inside a tin container left at the central radio station of Kamalapur in Dhaka. He had enemies among people to whom he advanced loans, press reports said.

Train disaster

Bombay (Reuters) - At least 30 people were killed and 200 injured when a packed suburban train was derailed in Bombay. Seven carriages left the track and four others overturned while the train was passing through Byculla station.

Libyan term

Accra (AFP) - Ghana is sending 500 teachers to work in Libya, in spite of the continuing shortage of teachers in the country, the National Association of Teachers complained at a press conference. Most are going to teach English.

Forger held

Hamburg (Reuters) - The self-confessed Hitler diaries forger Konrad Kujaw was arrested one week after being freed from custody. The court accepted the prosecution's motion that there was a possibility he might flee the country.

Ticket louts

New York (AFP) - New York police last year issued 48,000 parking tickets to UN diplomats, but most of the fines remain unpaid, losing the city nearly \$1m in revenue. One Senegalese car collected 286 tickets.

Sentence cut

Belgrade - The eight year prison sentence on Dr Vojislav Seselj, a Sarajevo university lecturer, for his alleged counter-revolutionary activities, has been cut in half on appeal.

Sail power

Tokyo (Reuters) - The 26,000-ton Pioneer, the carrier designed specifically to include a computerized sail system, left on its maiden voyage from Saiki in Japan for Seattle.

France faces choice between humiliation and war

From Diana Geddes, Paris

As the days drag on with no sign of a Libyan move to complete its withdrawal from Chad, observers here increasingly feel that France is trapped between international humiliation on the one hand and war with Libya on the other.

They see the Libyan air attack on Chad Government forces on Tuesday, followed by the reconnaissance flights by Libyan aircraft over Chad territory on Wednesday, as further acts of deliberate provocation by Colonel Gaddafi.

The French Government, meanwhile, is still refusing to give any indication of its intentions with regard to Chad,

or of what agreement, if any, was reached between Colonel Gaddafi and President Mitterrand at their meeting in Crete on November 15.

At first there was talk in government circles of the withdrawal deadline being extended by three or four days, then by one or two weeks. But no one outside the few taken into President Mitterrand's confidence seems to know for certain. "We are in a complete fog", M. Pierre Messmer, a former Gaullist Prime Minister, commented.

Some suspect that no precise deadline has been given, but that the Government is simply supposing that the Libyans will leave, sooner rather than later, because it is in their interest to leave now, get rid of the French

and then return in, say, six months' time.

It would seem to be imperative that the Chad affair is settled before the traditional annual France-African summit, due in Burundi on December 11 and 12, and which is to be attended by President Mitterrand.

So far, however, France has not done much to put pressure on Libya other than engage in a little satire-rattling, in the form of putting on alert 250 French troops stationed in the neighbouring Central African Republic, and sending two Jaguar aircraft on a reconnaissance flight over Chad on Sunday.

A claim yesterday by the Libyans that a new joint commission of French and Libyan observers had been set up to monitor the completion of

the Libyan withdrawal was described as "inaccurate" by the French Government.

"There are no French military observers on the ground", the Ministry of Defence insisted - without making clear, however, whether observers were to be sent.

Many feel that France would be extremely reluctant to send troops back into Chad. To do so would be to admit the failure of the Government's diplomacy, which is based on negotiation rather than armed intervention. It would, furthermore, be unlikely to be any more effective than the previous operation, unless France were willing to escalate its action into an armed confrontation with Libya, with all that would entail.

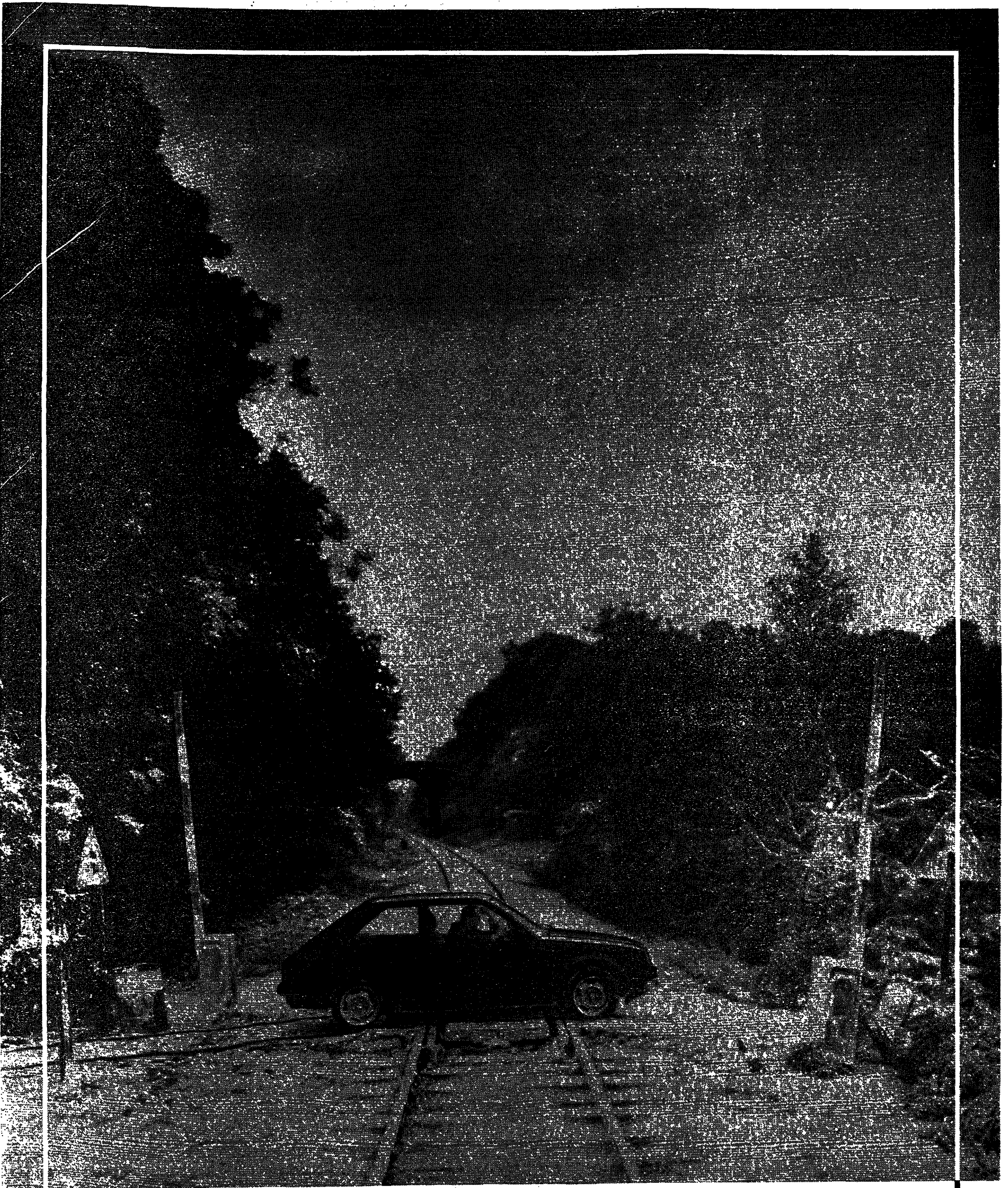
On the other hand, the credibility of President Mitterrand, of the French "umbrella" for other African Francophone nations, and of France itself, is at stake.

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He isn't using Visco-Nova and it's time he started.

There's a one in a million chance that this is ever going to happen to anyone. But that's exactly why we've produced an oil in a million.

BP Visco-Nova. It's a low viscosity oil. 10W30 to be precise.

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make, in fact only BP have the know-how. But then you'd expect us to go further than anyone else to make a better product. Visco-Nova. You can depend on it.



Britain at its best.

East-West tensions

Soviet block peace group emerges to plead for missile-free Europe

By Patricia Clough

East German and Czechoslovak peace movements yesterday issued a joint appeal for a missile-free Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals in an unprecedented move which revealed the birth of an international peace network inside the Eastern block.

The appeal, made available exclusively to *The Times*, protested at the deployment of Soviet missiles in two countries. It called for "an open society which respects its men and women".

It was signed by members of Charter 77, the Czechoslovak human rights and peace group, including Mr Vaclav Havel, the well-known playwright, and East German peace protesters, including Frau Cajo Havemann, wife of the leading dissident, Herr Robert Havemann.

The statement was timed for the first anniversary of the deployment of Soviet SS2s and 22s in Eastern Europe, an event which aroused public revulsion against missiles in Czechoslovakia similar to that already existing in East Germany.

The Czechoslovak group had to overcome long-standing antagonism toward the Germans, as well as a strict police surveillance, to achieve the joint action which they said,

was evidence of a continuous alliance and cooperation. "This togetherness cannot come under threat from any historical resentment or any political police".

They also revealed indirectly that they had been in contact with Polish, Soviet and Hungarian peace groups and appealed to them and other Eastern European human rights groups to join the declaration.

The 29 signatories also appealed to Western peace movements for support. Using cautious terms, they implicitly criticized Western governments - "those who tolerate social inequality" - and communist regimes.

The statement, passed on by the Palach Press, a London-based press agency specializing in Czechoslovak affairs, said the deployment of Soviet missiles meant peace was even more endangered and the arms race continued.

"This criticism is addressed to all states which are preparing for new world war, threaten their neighbours and often order about their own citizens... We protest anew against the siting and extension of nuclear complexes on our territory. We are thus in solidarity with the peace movements in the West..."

"We regard the following step as the first and important one: no missiles in Europe, from the Ural Mountains to the Atlantic. Together with the Polish, Soviet and Hungarian independent peace movements, we believe that nuclear armament is not the reason for the present international crisis."

"Today's state of affairs is a result of the practice of power politics, that is, of the furthering of particular, often selfish interests."

"Those who think in terms of blocks and enemies render an honest dialogue impossible. Those who tolerate social inequality or even widen the gap are responsible for hunger and poverty. Those who deny the dignity of individual human beings, who deny freedom of opinion, necessarily tend also to solve national and international problems by means of violence."

"Peace is indivisibly linked to the implementation and observance of all human rights. We want to live in an open society which respects its men and women. The road to such a society does not lead through military barracks, a polluted environment, missile-launching ramps..."

"Peace in Europe and nuclear disarmament in the world."



Family Feud: Mrs Menaka Gandhi, estranged sister-in-law of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, campaigns in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, for next month's election. She is fighting the same seat as Rajiv in the state.

El Salvador civil war

Fighting stepped up despite peace talks

From John Carlin, San Salvador

The fighting in El Salvador has intensified since the first peace talks last month between Government and guerrilla leaders.

The American-backed Army has been hit hard, but a long-awaited guerrilla offensive failed to materialize. All neutral observers here agree that stalemate persists in the five-year civil war and that the reasons remain strong for both sides to continue a dialogue.

A close observer of the military scene drew an analogy with the ex-boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. The Army is like Frazier, he said - strong firepower, keeps on coming forward, keeps getting bruised. The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, like Ali, is good on mobility and stinging surprise attacks.

Since the October 15 peace talks the Army has mounted "sweep" operations, involving several thousand men, in the two provinces where the guerrillas exercise most control - Chalatenango and Morazan.

The guerrillas have been "swept", have been moved on, but they have suffered relatively little. The Army's inability, to the frustration of the US military advisers in El Salvador, to operate in small, classic counter-insurgency units, instead trying to bludgeon the FMLN into submission with large "cumbrous" battalions, has meant that the guerrillas are receiving ample warning of the Army's arrival.

The two big Army operations of the last month, still in progress, have exposed soldiers



fighting for 10 hours and causing well over 100 Army casualties.

Another smaller guerrilla unit destroyed an electricity station four miles north of San Salvador, killing more than 20 soldiers.

The severest loss of recent years for the Army was the death of Colonel Domingo Monterrosa, unquestionably the Army's best field commander. He was also an important moderating influence among the officer corps.

Crash kills Army chiefs

Managua (Reuters). - Two of Nicaragua's top military men and eight soldiers were killed yesterday when a Soviet-made Mi8 helicopter crashed into a mountain.

A Defence Ministry bulletin said the helicopter crashed in bad weather in the Los Cedros range, 90 miles north-east of the capital. It happened in the Pantasma region of northern Jinotega province.

Among the dead were Sub-Commander Cristóbal Vanegas, the military commander of Matagalpa and Jinotega provinces, and Sub-Commander

Uruguayan voters wary of generals

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

With Uruguay's first general elections since 1971 coming up on Sunday, this tiny country has been overwhelmed by the euphoria of political campaigns in their final feverish week. But political and diplomatic analysis warns that the military will be waiting in the wings for the elected government to falter after it takes over next March 1.

"The military are going back to the barracks, but whether they stay there depends on how we run our democracy," said Señor Enrique Tarigo, the vice-presidential candidate of the traditional Colorado Party.

Running a democratic government will be no easy task. The economy is in its worst recession since the 1930s, unemployment is at 15 per cent and the \$4.6bn (£3.7bn) foreign debt represents \$1,550 for every man, woman and child - the second highest per capita total in Latin America.

Aggravating matters is an antiquated political system which analysts say is likely to breed confusion and conflict. An electoral law dating from the turn of the century allows each political party to put forward as many candidates as there are factions within it and the most popular party is allowed to name the President.

The result, said Señor Juan Rial, a political scientist, is that the parties "are simply electoral alliances which tend to split up once they get into parliament". Since a close election is expected between the traditional Blanco and Colorado parties and the left-wing Broad Front, "the President will really have to scramble to put together a governing coalition", Señor Rial said.

Diplomats, politicians and academics alike agree that cooperation between the parties will provide the only chance of coping with expected controversies over economic matters and calls for the prosecution of military officers accused of human rights violations. Last week the principal candidates signed an agreement outlining basic policy guidelines to be followed by whoever wins the election.

But the military, which seized power in 1973 after being called to fight the Tupamaros guerrillas, are sceptical of the politician's ability to hold things together.

Sources close to the military say some officers have already worked out a scenario predicting that the new Government will lose control over social unrest within a year and "have no option but to call the military back in".

It will be the task of the politicians to see that chaos does not develop, and the stakes are very high. Señor Rafael Michelini, an organizer for the Broad Front, put it this way: "This election will decide whether military rule was merely an historical anomaly in Uruguay, or whether we are going into a cycle of coups, like Argentina's."

Indian state assembly dissolved

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The State Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, a Southern Indian State, has been dissolved on the recommendation of Mr N. T. Rama Rao the Chief Minister. This is the second state to do so: the first was Tamil Nadu.

The Andhra Pradesh Assembly has completed only 22½ months out of its term of five years but the state has gone through a traumatic experience: in August Mr Rama Rao was dismissed and a Congress (I) - supported Chief Minister, Mr Bhaskar Rao, was installed.

Protests throughout the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, forced Mrs Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister, to reappoint Mr Rama Rao as Chief Minister.

Mr Rao, who has 160 MPs in a House of 205, has been under pressure since his return to power. He has expanded his Cabinet three times, raising the number of ministers to 42 but apparently this did not mollify most of his supporters.

Mr Rao has already entered into an alliance with the opposition parties for the Lok Sabha election, by giving them eight out of 42 seats.

RAF extends Ethiopia famine relief airlift

From Thomson Prentice, Addis Ababa

The RAF famine relief airlift has extended its operations in Ethiopia by flying food supplies to the north-west of the country. The first supplies were flown yesterday to Gondar, 40 miles north of Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, and 350 miles from the capital.

The area is usually one of the more fertile stretches of the country but has also been badly affected by drought. The two Hercules transport planes are continuing to take huge daily cargoes of grain, blankets and other supplies to the aid of scores of thousands of starving peasants at feeding centres in Mekele and Aksum in the northern highlands, from the port of Assab.

By the middle of this week they had airlifted more than

Zapu rebels to die for kidnap of tourists

From Jan Raath, Harare

Two unrepentant guerrillas were sentenced to death yesterday for their part in the kidnap of six tourists in July 1982.

Gilbert Ngunwenya, aged 42, and Austin Mpofo, aged 25, ignored court proceedings to the end, asserted that the tourists were still alive, and repeated their demands for the release of Zapu detainees and return of Zapu property confiscated by the state.

As Mr Justice Sandura left to consider sentence with his two assessors, Ngunwenya raised a clenched fist and shouted: "Forward with the people's revolution until victory. Forward with the people who are fighting in the bush. And I say power to the people."

The judge returned to say he had found both men guilty. He sentenced them to death on six counts of abduction, which is an act of terrorism in Zimbabwe law and a capital offence.

Last week, Mpofo was sentenced to death for the murder of a policeman, five white men and their families in Matabeleland in early 1982.

The six tourists were two Britons, Mr James Greenwell, aged 21, of Liverpool; Mr Martin Hodgson, aged 38, of Peterborough; two Americans, Mr Brett Baldwin, aged 25, and Mr Kevin Ellis, aged 26, both of Seattle; and two Australians, Mr Tony Bajzelz, aged 27, and Mr William Butler aged 33.

When the trial opened on Wednesday, a statement by Ngunwenya's police lawyer read to the court. It said he was leader of a group of 19 guerrillas who stopped an overland adventure lorry about 50 miles north of Bulawayo on July 23.

The six tourists spent three months in Matabeleland North before they were allegedly taken to the site of an old Zupa (the military wing of Zupa in Zimbabwe's liberation war) base in Zambia.

There, the statement said, they were handed over to "some Soviet people" who were told "they must keep these six tourists for us till we receive our property and people who are arrested without reason".

The Soviet Embassy here said a report in *The Herald* newspaper was slanderous and that the "incoherent and groundless utterances of persons accused of anti-government activities have been deliberately twisted to give credibility to these absurd allegations. There was no Soviet connexion with the kidnap."

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Water crisis hits Zambia

From Alfred Sayila, Lusaka

Some Zambia areas face a critical water shortage which may force many industries to close.

The Department of Water Development says eastern, western, central and southern provinces are the hardest hit. Towns are without water for most of the time.

Small rivers have dried up, affecting the level in Luangwa, one of the biggest rivers in Zambia. Agriculture has suffered and there is famine in some areas. Hundreds of people are starving but receiving relief from the World Food Programme.

President Kaunda last week decided to set up a national company to harness and distribute water in Zambia.

Water shortages are also the result of poor planning, increased consumption and mechanical breakdown. Another area where there are shortages is sugar.

While the country makes plenty to consume locally or to export, sugar shortages in some districts are a constant puzzle. According to the Zambia Sugar Company, local shortages are due to poor distribution and marketing.

Muldoon will fight to retain party leadership

From W P Reeves, Wellington

Sir Robert Muldoon, leader of New Zealand's Opposition, announced yesterday that he would defend his position in the National Party at a vote to be taken among his MPs on December 21.

After his defeat in the July elections, Sir Robert faced strong calls for his resignation. All he would say then was that he was unlikely to offer himself again for the leadership, but he has been sending out signals recently that he was thinking of fighting to stay on.

His reason for entering the contest, he explained yesterday, was because he felt none of the other four contenders was as capable of getting rid of the Labour Government.

He admitted he did not have the numbers to retain his position but believed this would

Early elections threat recedes in Denmark

Copenhagen - The threat of a premature general election in Denmark receded yesterday after the opposition Social Democrats announced that they would not table a vote of no confidence in the centre-right Government over its foreign and defence policies (Christopher Pollett writes).

A political crisis arose earlier this week when the 27-month-old Conservative-led minority Government defied the ruling of a majority in Parliament and cast Denmark's vote with its NATO allies against a UN resolution in the East German, Cuba and Hungary, calling for a ban on first use of nuclear weapons.

A parliamentary debate on Danish defence has been called here for early next month.



Mr Lévesque: Stage set for showdown.

Party split on Quebec secession

From John Best, Ottawa

A decision by Mr René Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, to shelve the question of independence for the French-speaking province has caused angry divisions in the ruling Parti Québécois (PQ).

One backbencher resigned from the PQ caucus in Quebec City on Tuesday and a number of Cabinet ministers expressed dissatisfaction with Mr Lévesque's move, backed by the party executive.

The decision represents a complete turn-around from the position adopted by a PQ convention in June, which said that a vote for the party in the coming provincial election - expected next autumn - would be considered a vote for Quebec's independence from Canada.

The stage is now set for a showdown on January 19, when Mr Lévesque and the executive will ask yet another convention to endorse their stand.

Mr Lévesque outlined his position in a statement released on Monday, which said that the party must resign itself, at least for the next election, "to the fact that sovereignty must not be at stake, neither wholly nor in parts that are more or less disguised."

In effect, the Premier is saying that the party should stick with the strategy which allowed it to attain power in the first place, eight years ago

Japanese seek compensation for internment

Ottawa (Reuters) - Japanese Canadians, after studying records of Canada's wartime Cabinet meetings, have demanded an apology and compensation for internment they say was prompted by racism.

There were 21,000 Japanese Canadians who, within months of Japan's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbour, lost everything.

Their plight was described in "Democracy Betrayed", a report issued on Wednesday by the National Association of Japanese Canadians. It said the internments were prompted by racism, not national security.

Earlier this year, \$38m (30.4m) was awarded to 26,500 claimants in the United States. Mr Pierre Trudeau, the former Prime Minister, rejected the idea of compensation while he was in office.

The association wants talks with the Multiculturalism Minister, Mr Jack Murta, who has already said he favours an apology and is considering setting

Vietnamese fail to capture big Khmer base

Bangkok. - After five days of fighting, Vietnamese forces have retreated from Cambodian guerrilla counterattacks at Nong Chan, close to the Thai border, according to guerrilla and Thai military sources (Neil Kelly writes).

A spokesman for the Thai supreme command said yesterday that the Vietnamese would need substantial reinforcements to capture Nong Chan, an important base of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The Thai spokesman said that the situation at Nong Chan was such that attacking forces needed to outnumber the defenders by at least three to one.

Excavations at the grave near Xian, northern China, have been underway for the past 10 years, revealing an army of several thousand larger-than-life clay soldiers which, with the clay horses like the one that arrived in Stockholm this week, were stationed around the grave to guard the emperor in death.

Mr Jan Wirgin, the director of the museum, showed a sign of relief as the horse made it to the top of the stairs. "We asked the British to join us in putting on the exhibition in Europe but they told us they didn't have enough money," he said.

The museum had to find other European partners before Sweden and one of the country's leading banks would agree to fund it.

The eight clay soldiers and two horses, as well as other finds from the Xian grave are insured for up to £16m.

Emperor's horse goes on show

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

A 2,000-year-old clay horse yesterday successfully negotiated a moving staircase and became the star of an exhibition Britain could not avoid to stage.

The horse, swathed in bandaging and tape in case of accidents, went up 40 steps leading into the Museum of Far-Eastern Antiquities in Stockholm. It forms part of the extraordinary finds made in the grave of the Chinese Emperor Qin Shihuang (221-210 BC) now on display in the museum.

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Smooth ride: an ancient Chinese clay horse negotiating a flight of stairs to the exhibition in Stockholm.

Mr Wirgin said he had visited the excavations in Xian several times and described them as "one of the most exciting archaeological finds of our age."

The exhibits survived a difficult trip. The two horses, suspended in harnesses in foam rubber-lined crates, survived intact a violent touchdown in

Karachi, and a long lorry journey from Paris to Stockholm.

The exhibition, entitled "The emperor's army," opens in Stockholm on December 5, continuing until February 17 next, when the horses will again make the perilous journey on the moving staircase before embarking on a trip to Oslo.



BANK

Base Rate

With effect from the close of business on 22nd November and until further notice TSB Base Rate will be 9 1/2 % p.a.

Trustee Savings Banks Central Board, PO Box 33, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8LU.

THIS AD REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF LONDONERS.

IT'S GOING IN THE TELEGRAPH, THE TIMES, THE GUARDIAN AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S BIN.

It's unlikely that the Prime Minister will be very interested in reading this.

Because right from the start the Government hasn't been interested in any objections to their proposals to abolish the GLC. Even from their own MPs.

As far as they're concerned, you can either like it or lump it. Which is why they went ahead and published the Abolition Bill yesterday.

Even though they now know that over 74%* of Londoners are opposed to it.

Not all of these Londoners favour the current administration at County Hall either.

But it's the one that Londoners voted for at the last GLC elections. And the one that Londoners could have just as easily voted out at the next elections.

That is, had the Government not scrapped them.

Quite simply, the people of London want the right to decide for themselves who runs their city.

It's a right they deserve. One which they've had for almost a hundred years and one which people have in every other capital city in the western world.

The Government has attempted to excuse itself by talking about devolution.

That is, giving more power to the Borough Councils.

But it's pure deceit.

The fact of the matter is, in terms of expenditure over two thirds of the GLC's responsibilities won't go to the Borough Councils at all.

They'll go to Whitehall quangos and joint boards which are not directly elected.

A system of administration that isn't just undemocratic but one which politicians on both sides predict will result in organisational chaos.

In the first year alone, it will cost London ratepayers an extra £65 million.

It's a blatant misuse of central Government power which we will continue to campaign against on behalf of Londoners.

The Houses of Parliament have yet to approve the Bill before it becomes law.

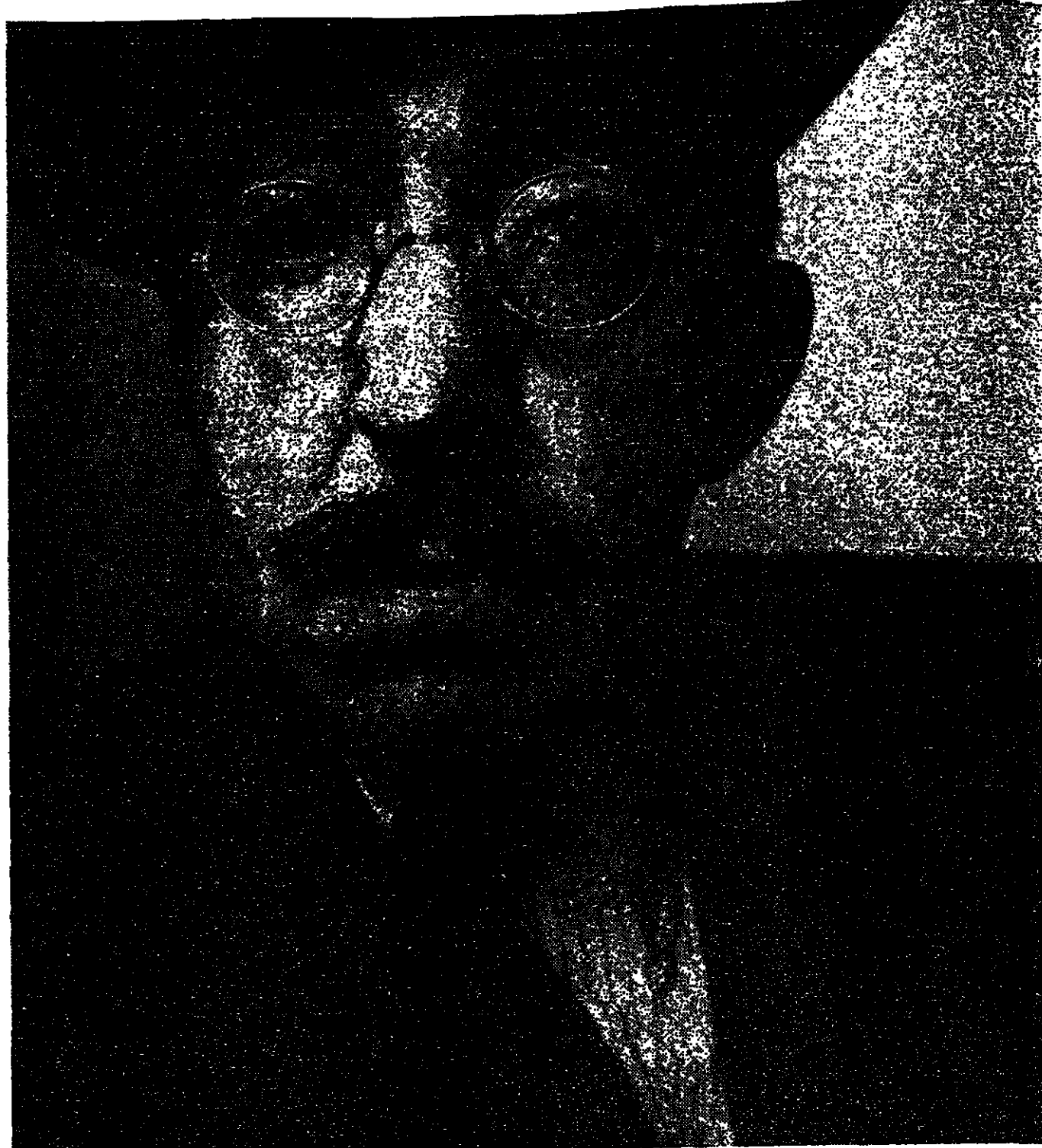
The Government has turned its back on the people of London.

We appeal to the House of Commons and the House of Lords not to.

SAY NO TO NO SAY.

*HARRIS RESEARCH/THAMES TV SURVEY AMONGST 1027 ADULTS IN GREATER LONDON IN SEPTEMBER 1984.

SPECTRUM



Lord Snowdon pays tribute to photographer Irving Penn

ART OF EMOTION AND ELEGANCE



When Mies van der Rohe said, "Less is more", he could have been talking about the photography of Irving Penn. Penn's work is about complete control over light and environment and about an unvarnished economy of means where less really is more. Backgrounds hardly exist in a Penn photograph; when they do, they remain anonymous spaces which never threaten to overwhelm the subject. Lighting is simple and yet used to the best advantage.

Within the controlled situation things happen which make sense. The end results have a sophisticated elegance and a sensitive veracity.

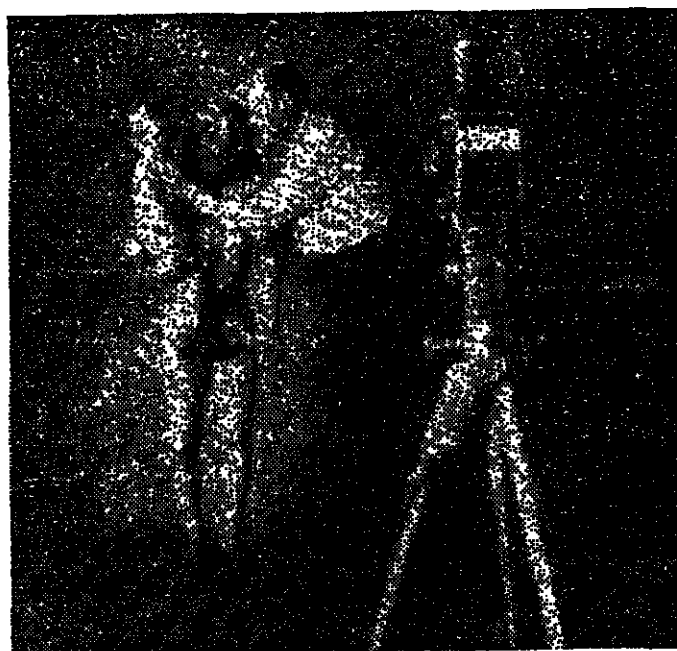
In his fashion photography Penn has resolutely refused to resort to gimmicks. Models, when they are used - Penn has at times photographed clothes on plastic mannequins - never jump up and down and scream at the camera. They are instead imbued with a simple elegance so that a kind of quietness permeates the photograph.

Penn is also a master of the still life and it is obvious from these photographs that, like Cartier-Bresson, he started life as a painter. His early career was spent making drawings for *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue*.

With portraiture Penn has been deeply influenced by nineteenth-century photographers but he has carried the genre a stage further with his unerring sense of volume and line.

His ability to reveal deep emotion in the eyes of his subjects - the most expressive part of any face - is extraordinary. And it is to the eyes that the viewer is always drawn, be it fashion or portraiture.

Penn is one of the great photographers of the twentieth century. His influence on himself and others has been tremendous not only as a photographer but as a great craftsman too, especially in perfecting his platinum prints which have a quite remarkable quality. His photographs are timeless, lasting and deeply serious.



Penn with Mud Man and Child, New Guinea 1970

When he made the now legendary photographs of groups of New Guinea tribesmen he took them out of their environment and froze them in time within the confines of his studio tent. Here he was able to exercise complete control of light and space and the photographs are as fresh today as when he made them.

Penn has always been under tremendous pressure to do cigarette advertising but he has always refused. He prefers instead to photograph discarded cigarette ends picked up in the street almost as classical still-life studies. The platinum prints, beautiful in themselves, show exactly how repulsive smoking really is.

I was with Penn only last week in New York. He is a quiet reserved sensitive man searching always for the truth in the most honest way possible. And although I have often said that I do not believe photography is one of the fine arts, I do believe that Irving Penn is a great artist.

● Miles Kingston will be back on Monday

'He uses light like Rembrandt'

Irving Penn was born in Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1917. He studied design under Alexey Brodovitch at the Philadelphia Museum School of Industrial Art, and began working as a designer and photographer in 1943, for *Vogue*, for which he still sometimes works today. His genius with the camera has embraced portraiture, fashion, still life and nude photography and he has photographed painters and writers without cheap tricks or flattery.

Penn uses light in a similar way to Rembrandt. Shadows are deep and highlights sing with an inner luminosity. His portraits are traditional and yet have an unremitting elegance. The tilt of a head, the angle of a hand, the oblique stance of a body are relentlessly used to create formal elegant structures.

He excels at group portraits, be it mud men from Asaro, New Guinea, or Hell's Angels from San Francisco. Penn's mastery of the complexities of an individual's space within a group is unsurpassed.



He has often taken his tent studio to remote regions of the globe such as Nepal and Dahomey, now Benin, to capture an elegance and style he sensed among the inhabitants. The photographs have become important anthropological expositions which, unlike the work of the German August Sander in the early part of the twentieth century, have always retained their warmth and humanity. The incongruities we see in these studies within the formal no-man's territory of the tent studio allow us to observe the Dahomey women's cicatrices as bodily adornments rather than disfigurement.

Such cicatrices are fashion no less than the necklaces and rich fabrics worn by western women. Increasingly Penn has turned to the fine art print as an end in itself. Continually disappointed by inferior editorial reproductions, he now prefers to make fine crafted prints using the platinum-palladium process.

Now aged 67, he lives and works with his wife, the former model Lisa Fonssagrives, just outside New York.

A major retrospective of his work is touring America and Thames and Hudson is distributing in Britain a splendidly illustrated accompanying volume to coincide with this.

Michael Young

Irving Penn is published by Thames and Hudson on Monday, price £40.

S. J. Perelman, New York 1962, above

Tambul Warrior, New Guinea 1970, above left

Harlequin Dress, New York 1950, left

Tomorrow

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FRIDAY PAGE

Why I am having a baby for my sister

As MPs today debate the Warnock report which recommends banning surrogate mothers, Nicholas Timmins talks to two women and a gynaecologist who believe this kind of pregnancy can be justified

Two and a half years ago, Glenda Eason, now aged 40, woke up after an operation to remove a growth at Hammersmith Hospital, London, to find her womb had been taken away.

After seven years of desperately trying to have a child through the rounds of the infertility clinics and more investigations than she can remember, she found that a surgical emergency had necessitated her uterus being removed. Her chances of having a child seemed to have gone flat.

"I can't tell you what it feels like when there's absolutely no hope," she says. "I had gone into hospital thinking that this was going to be the answer after years of disappointment."

"When I woke up and found what they had done, there was no hope. The chance was gone for good. It was devastating."

'We are just using Jacki as a suitcase really, an incubator to carry it'

Her sister Jacki, aged 35 and the mother of three children, came to see her, clutching a six-month-old baby in her arms, but the two sisters could not bring themselves to talk about what had happened for three days. Glenda underwent psychiatric treatment to cope with the depression that followed.

It was some weeks later that Jacki made the offer that gave Glenda and her husband Dennis, aged 46, the chance of a child - she would have a baby for them.

Under the recommendations of the Warnock report, being debated today in Parliament, what Jacki is doing - preparing to have a test-tube baby created from Glenda's egg and Dennis's sperm - would be banned. The committee recommended a ban on surrogate mothers,

both commercial and non-commercial, which would render Mr Robert Winston, the gynaecologist who is providing the test-tube baby treatment, liable to prosecution.

The idea that Jacki might have a baby for Glenda occurred to the two women almost simultaneously.

"We had considered adoption," said Glenda. "But we are too old to be given the chance and there are too few babies." Dennis added: "Birth control and abortion mean there just aren't many children available and they always tend to go to younger parents."

Fostering, she says, would be fine if she already had a family. Without one, "I couldn't do that. I couldn't have a baby and then give it back after a few months or even years."

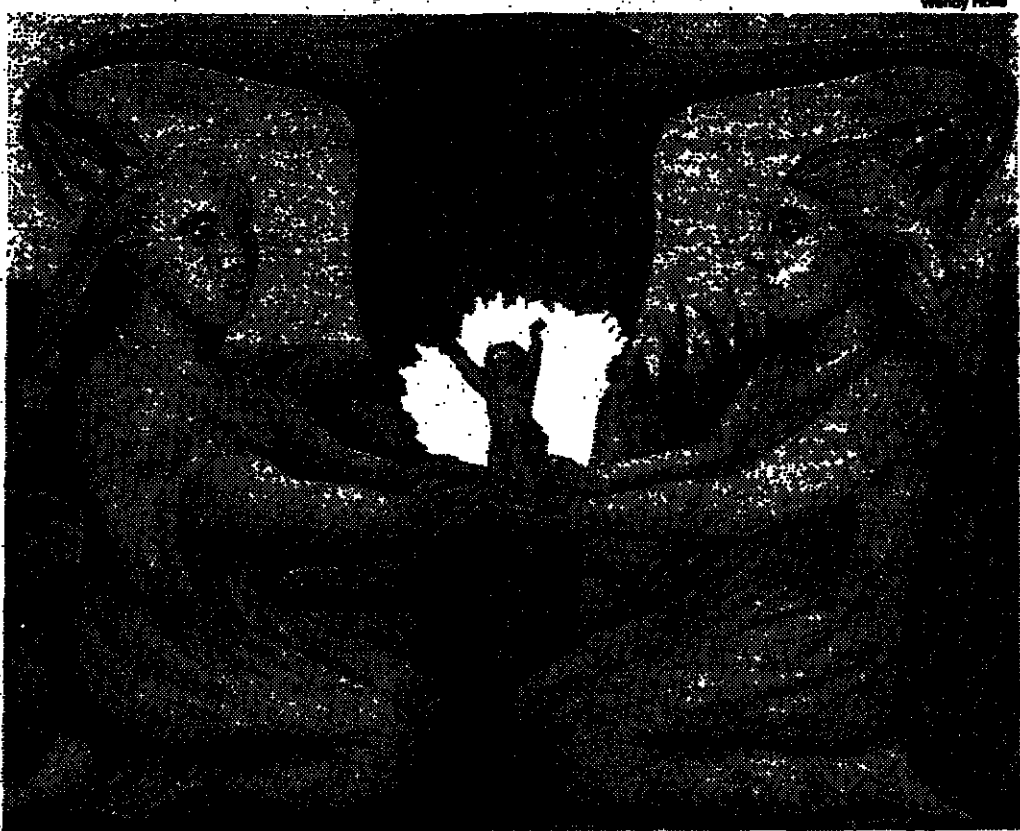
Glenda says she saw a newspaper report about a mother abroad having a baby for her daughter. "I started thinking about it, wondering if Jacki could have a baby for me. I doubt if I would ever have got round to asking her, but the very next day she just offered."

Jacki says: "She didn't need asking twice." Her motive, she says, was simply that she was very close to her sister and had seen what she had gone through.

"It seemed that every time Glenda went into hospital for treatment I was either heavily pregnant or had a baby in my arms."

"I can normally have babies so easily and when a member of your family can't, it makes you feel a little bit guilty. I've been so lucky. I've got three healthy kids. She's been so unlucky."

Their original idea was that Jacki would have a baby by artificial insemination, using Dennis's sperm and her egg. But they realized that the test-tube technique could give Glenda and Dennis a child that genetically was their own - created from Glenda's egg and Dennis's sperm in the labor-



tory and simply carried by Jacki. The first attempt failed and now they are trying again. Glenda says that if the test-tube treatment fails, they may yet want to try the other route. But she sees there would be more problems.

"How do you explain to a child that this woman she sees two or three times a week is really her mother? By using the test-tube technique it is our own child."

'It's their child. In a way it's got nothing to do with me at all'

Glenda says: "We are just using Jacki as a suitcase really, an incubator to carry it. At the end of the day it's our child."

When they put the idea to Robert Winston, they say, he told Glenda it was too soon after the operation. Months

later, after lengthy discussion, he agreed to go ahead.

Jacki says she sees no problem in having the child over. "I've got my family. I don't want any more children but I do enjoy being pregnant. There is no way that I would want to keep it. It's not mine, it belongs to Glenda and Dennis."

"I can't say how I would feel after carrying it for nine months if it was Dennis's sperm but my egg. I would go into that fully believing that I could quite happily hand it over after it was born, but I don't think anyone could be 100 per cent sure beforehand in those circumstances. But this way it's entirely different. It's their child. In a way it's got nothing to do with me at all."

Jacki says she has talked through the issues with her eldest son, aged 16, and he is happy about it. Her boyfriend wasn't sure at first, but when it was explained to him he was "very, very supportive".

If the treatment fails, Jacki says, she might be prepared to try having the baby by artificial

insemination with Dennis's sperm. "But I think we would have to sit down and do a lot more soul searching first." There could be problems explaining that to the child later.

The two sisters are more divided on whether other forms of surrogacy should be banned. Jacki says: "I think it should be kept in the family circle. I would be against somebody paying thousands of pounds. No way could I do it for anyone else not even a close friend."

Glenda too has reservations about commercial surrogacy, but being childless can see the pressure and is loathe to condemn it.

What they and Dennis are clear about is that there is nothing wrong in what they hope to achieve - one sister carrying a child for another - an arrangement done for love not money. "In cases like ours where it can help a woman have a child who otherwise couldn't have one, where is the harm?" asks Glenda.

'We feared back-door agencies'

Whether to ban all forms of surrogate motherhood was one of the most difficult issues which the Warnock Committee tackled. In the end it came down 14-2 against.

Surrogacy contracts should be enforceable, the committee said, and while parents involved in surrogacy arrangements should not be prosecuted, anyone who assisted in creating a surrogate pregnancy should be liable to criminal prosecution.

The minority report firmly opposed commercial surrogate agencies. But it suggested that adoption and fostering agencies should be allowed to arrange surrogate pregnancies.

This week Dame Mary Warnock, chairman of the committee, said: "I think the minority report on surrogacy ought certainly to be given a better run for its money."

In cases where money did not change heads, she said, and an adoption agency or gynaecologist arranged the pregnancy, "there is a great deal to be said for it".

In a case where a sister could use the test-tube baby technique to have a child that would be the offspring of the parents who would bring it up, "there is an even stronger case".

She said: "In the end we couldn't think of a way to draft legislation without leaving it open to people to put up their plates and start a little agency."

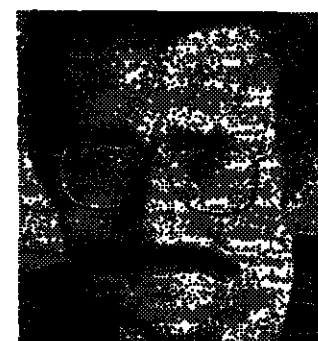
But Professor Malcolm McNaughton, now President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and a member of the Warnock Committee, said he had finally come to believe that surrogacy, even by the test-tube approach, should not be allowed.

"That a woman should carry a child and hand it over by arrangement is unacceptable."

Where sisters were involved the problems could be even greater. "If they are close, she will be seeing the child, watching it grow up. The fact that she has had the baby but given it to her sister could lead to all sorts of possible problems which would not be in the interests of the child."



Dame Mary Warnock



Mr Robert Winston

Doctor defends the case for saying yes

"It would be wrong to make surrogate mothers completely illegal," said Mr Robert Winston, senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. "In some rare cases I believe there must be exceptions to a general ban on surrogacy."

In the case of Glenda Eason, he said, the couples themselves had suggested that the test-tube baby technique might provide them with a child.

"They are very mature responsible people. They recognise the risks there might be - that the child might be born defective; that there might be a major complication of pregnancy in which the sister could even die; that she might want to keep the child. They came to the conclusion that there was no problem with which they couldn't cope."

Before he agreed to undertake treatment, he said, he discussed the case with five consultant colleagues, including the two professors of gynaecology at Hammersmith Hospital, and the psychiatrist who treated Glenda Eason. "Three of them talked to the couple and there was total unanimity that in this case it was a proper and acceptable method of treatment."

The sister, he said, did not want to bring up any more children herself, but offered this to her sister as an act of charity.

He knew of another case at a different hospital where such treatment was "perfectly appropriate". There the woman had test-tube baby treatment which

failed, but in which two spare embryos were frozen for another attempt. "While she was waiting, breast cancer was diagnosed."

"Her sister felt that after being childless for so long, the breast cancer was the last straw. There was no reason why the patient should die, provided the cancer was adequately treated and she did not become pregnant. The only chance of her having the baby which was already in embryo was for the sister to nurture it until it was ready for delivery."

"My colleagues tell me there was no possibility of her wanting to keep the child. She was doing it for the most altruistic reasons and to snatch back a baby from her sister who had had breast cancer was inconceivable."

"Such cases are very rare. But I think it would be wrong to make helping them a criminal offence. Certainly surrogacy is undesirable in the vast majority of cases and I have grave reservations about commercial agencies. There is a good case for making that illegal because of the huge risk of exploitation of desperate couples and that poor women would risk pregnancy for the money. That I find abhorrent."

"But in these very rare cases where there is a sister, or a very close friend or relation, I think it is an acceptable treatment."

Adventures of a cabin boy

Few parents would be brave enough to take their new-born baby to the other side of the world for a voyage of exploration in the South Seas. But Krov and Ann Menzies, both divers and film-makers, did just that.

Their three-month expedition was planned for the spring of 1983 when Aaron was four months old and their traditionally-rigged schooner could catch the trade winds. Aaron, who was still being breast fed, became the junior member of the crew of nine aboard *Ma Violante* for their trip from Vanuatu up to Papua New Guinea.

South Pacific islanders are inherently suspicious of travellers and it was vital for the Menzies to establish mutual trust. Ironically it was Aaron's smiling face that was the instant ice-breaker.

Ann said: "The anthropologist we met out there was absolutely amazed and he wanted to rent Aaron this year. He had some very difficult tribes to meet and some very touchy situations and he felt he could do with him."

A serenity emerges in the film from the Maleneian people which is in stark contrast to the cataclysmic forces which have shaped life in the region. The marine scenes have an hypnotic tranquility and it is Ann's figure which is seen gliding underwater.

Back on deck, however, her immediate concern was how much Aaron had drunk. "I was paranoid about dehydration and always carried a bottle for him. Mosquitoes and bugs were another great worry. I would not take him ashore where the mosquitoes were bad. But apart from one minor cold and ear trouble which was quickly sorted out, he was fine and in every respect things worked out well. In any large towns, we would buy fruit and vegetables and any tinned babyfood and I even managed to buy disposable nappies which I would stash away in the boat. Fresh water on board was limited but Aaron's nightly bath was a priority. His first swimming lessons were far more exotic. They were in the South Pacific Ocean."

Now at home on dry land, in a converted farmhouse in St Remy de Provence, south of Avignon, Krov and Ann are already fired with enthusiasm for the next project - in the Indian Ocean, based in Sri Lanka. "We'll



The Menzies family in the South Seas. (above) and on dry land with Aaron, now aged two

concentrate on elephants on land and sperm whales and giant groupers underwater... for Aaron it'll be a nursery school trip to the zoo any day." Part one of the four-part series *South Seas Voyage* will be broadcast this Sunday at 8.15 pm on Channel 4.

Rian Evans

MEDICAL BRIEFING

AIDS: the real risks

At a teaching hospital lunch given two months ago, all the doctors present agreed that the outbreak of AIDS had influenced decisions about recommending blood transfusions.

It is a basic medical principle not to cause unnecessary alarm, but the distinction between a reasonable warning and causing groundless fears about an AIDS epidemic will test judgment to its limits.

Heterosexuals as well as homosexuals are beginning to wonder if they are at risk. What are the dangers of catching AIDS from a bisexual partner? Can it be passed on by non-sexual means? Are active and passive homosexuals equally at

risk? Is it wise to share a bathroom or lavatory with a homosexual?

Doctors involved in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and in arranging blood transfusions, draw heavily on their experience with the hepatitis B virus. The epidemiology of this virus corresponds very closely to that of virus HTLV3, which is certainly associated with AIDS, if possibly not the sole cause.

Recent developments at the Royal Free Hospital, London, make it possible that within three to five years the dangers inherent in using extract of pooled blood will be a hazard of the past.

Professor Michael Adler, who works at the Middlesex Hospital and holds the only British chair funded for the study of sexually transmitted diseases, says the danger of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is still confined to well recognized groups: practising homosexuals, patients who need Factor 8 for haemophilia

treatment, drug addicts who use rusty needles, and prostitutes.

Professor Adler sees no reason for heterosexuals to change their lifestyle, but thinks homosexual men would be advised to cut down on their number of partners. He does not feel that bisexuality is common enough to alter the way in which the disease may be established in Britain.

All doctors seem to agree that the antibody test, which has been devised to test patients' blood to see if they have been exposed to HTLV3 virus, is difficult to interpret. And evidence suggests that for every one person who is attacked by HTLV3 virus, probably only one will develop AIDS.

Dr John Barbara, a virologist with the National Blood Transfusion Service who has recently written a book on microbiology and blood transfusions, said HTLV3 virus can be found in most body fluids, but is only in large quantities in blood and semen.

So the peck on the cheek for the party hostess from a homosexual guest will not matter, nor will the dirty glass or even the misdirected sneeze.

It seems that the semen of infectious bisexual men could be a danger to female partners. However, it would be surprising if a woman later developed AIDS with the virus in large enough quantities to be a risk to others. Fortunately the vaginal mucosa seems less vulnerable to viruses than the anal or rectal wall, so women may prove less resistant to infection.

Accurate study is difficult, as the AIDS incubation period after infection is up to five years. But a survey of 1,000 blood donors found that not one of those surveyed had antibodies to HTLV3 virus, showing that the risk of an ordinary transfusion is very slight.

If the number of infected and infectious patients increases, straightforward transfusions might become a greater danger than they are today. The risk is

increased for haemophilic patients who receive Factor 8, as this is prepared from pooled blood.

Dr Barbara is optimistic because blood donors in Britain are volunteers motivated by a desire to help, not financial gain.

However, some homosexuals feel that it should be made possible for a donor to talk privately to a doctor about their donor's sexual preferences. This blood could then be used, if needed, for research rather than transfusion.

Microbiology in relation to blood transfusions, by Dr John Barbara, is published by Wrights, Bristol, price £7.50.



Television watchers will have seen how Mr. Arthur Scargill's blink rate varies with the level of anxiety each question causes.

But blinking is not the only embarrassing eyelid can cause; even more disturbing is involuntary forced closure of the eye, blepharospasm, which can cause temporary blindness.

Recent research at Moorfields Eye Hospital now offers hope to sufferers. Mr John Elston, a senior lecturer at Moorfields, has been injecting a very weak solution of Botulinum toxin, one of the most toxic substances known, into the orbicularis oculi, the muscle surrounding the eye. The muscle is partially paralysed and cannot be forced shut. Thirty-five patients have been treated; five suffered because the muscle became too lax, but treatment was successful in the other 29.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

In Nicaragua: "Well-wishers swarmed around the crews and the children got all excited clambering into the turrets and sliding down the gun barrels. One tank commander, looking ridiculous in his Siberian earflaps under the tropical sun, was quite unable to control them. But at 15 years old he was not much bigger than they were."

P. J. KAVANAGH

In the country: "This Saturday I have been for a walk in the low November sunshine and as I climbed a sloping field it became evident that every single blade of grass, every dried-up thistle, twig, fence-post, was connected, by spiders' threads, by gossamer. If you stooped sideways the whole surface of the field shone continuously, solid gold."

DIGBY ANDERSON

on cooking on a chime: "There you are, two meals for a family of four, and soup (made from head, bones and heart), gloves for everyone (and many happy evenings making them), and toys for the cat, all for the price of a frosty pizza. And me - I'm positively aglow with charity."

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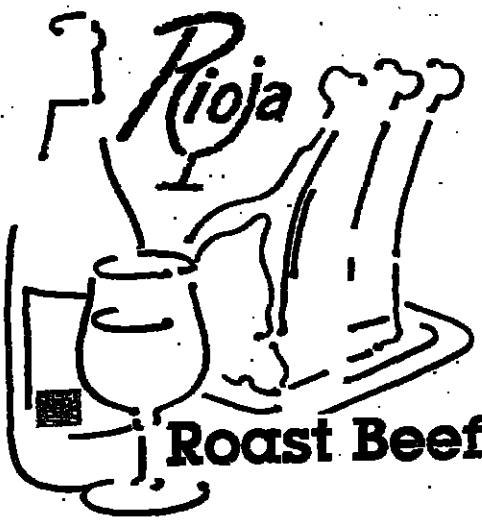
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THE TIMES DIARY

On the down beat

Tension is mounting among the four London orchestras over where the Arts Council's money will go. Neil Duncan, the "hit man" employed by the Arts Council to pick an orchestra to cut from the budget, has now delivered his confidential report and his recommendations have been initially accepted by the music panel. They have yet to be considered by the finance committee and the full Arts Council. Duncan's report is shrouded in secrecy but rumours are rife. Meanwhile the City of London - which jointly funds the London Symphony Orchestra - needs to know what is going on by December 13 when it has to agree a new three-year deal with the LSO and the Barbican. The Arts Council has given off-the-record assurances of continued funding to the LSO, but there are fears that these could clash with the contents of the Duncan Report. Last summer Duncan said ominously: "The council doesn't want to postpone indefinitely coming to a decision."

Fighting words

Regional newspaper correspondents at the Commons received several calls yesterday from Labour MPs facing dissection by their constituents. They were told to be abundantly clear, said Mr. Hailsham, that they had been part of the fight that brought the Commons to a standstill the night before.

Mole catch

The BBC current affairs flagship *Panorama* has failed in its bid to scoop the Clive Ponting story. The sought-after Ponting, the civil servant charged with leaking Belgrano documents, has agreed to cooperate solely with *World in Action*, *Panorama*'s rival at Granada TV which had also landed the Sarah Tisdall exclusive. Ponting and his solicitor, Brian Raymond, will work unpaid on an hour-length special likely to be aired on the night the trial ends. Raymond explained they had preferred *Granada*'s film report approach to *Panorama*'s studio discussion format. His reasoning will, particularly, gall the *Panorama* team which fears that budget cuts will further curtail expensive outside filming.

Trading places

Neil Kinnock will need all the tact he can muster today when he goes to the Central Traders Union Council in Moscow. Not only will he want to skirt the subject of Arthur Scargill - seen in Russian as a Soviet-style workers' hero - but he will have to avoid mentioning Scargill's Soviet counterpart, Alexander Dielousov. When Dielousov announced a fuel embargo against Britain last month to support the miners, an embarrassed Kremlin had to issue a statement saying it was a dreadful mistake. The fate of Dielousov is not yet known.

Bad aim

A Kent miner returned to work for the first time yesterday. Within a couple of hours he received a call from his wife. The bad news, she said, was that the heavy mob had been round and put bricks through upstairs and downstairs windows. The good news, she added, was that the mob got the house next door.

BARRY FANTONI



"Pity we don't have any striking miners for him to support"

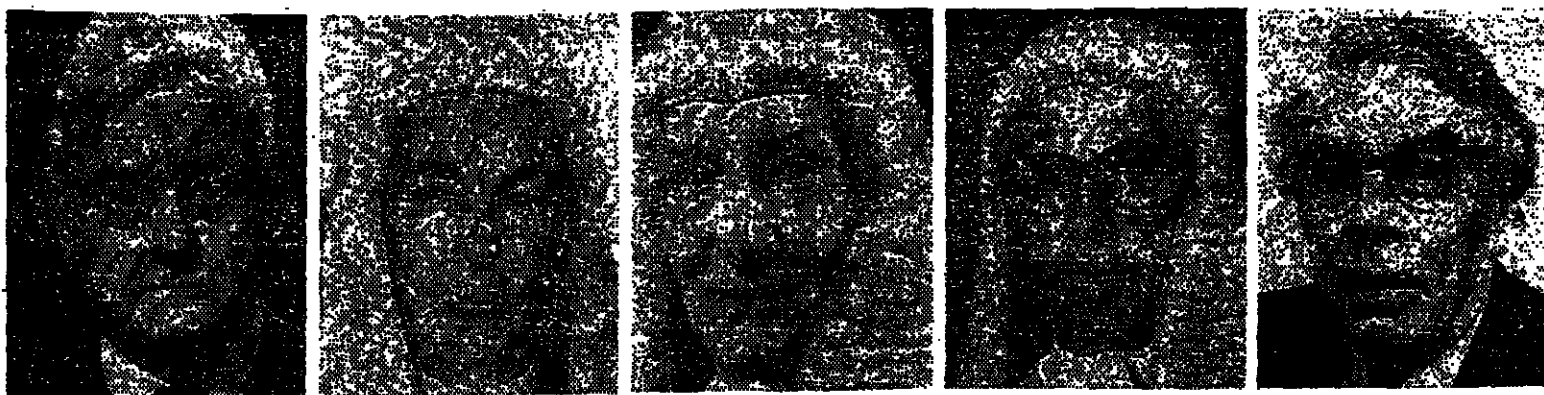
Loaded chamber

A security looking system and surveillance camera have just been installed at the entrance to the offices of Liverpool Council leader John Hamilton and his Militant-supporting deputy, Derek Hatton. This fortress mentality is hardly surprising. Last month Hatton was held hostage in his office for six hours by blacks protesting at the appointment of an outsider from Brent as £14,000-a-year head of the race relations unit. Last week the protesters wrecked a council meeting at which the appointee, 27-year-old Militant-sympathiser Sam Bond, was to be confirmed. Clearly the time has come for the council leaders - and their staff - to be protected from those they represent.

On target

My apologies to Jeffrey Archer for describing him as a former bankrupt. Following the crash of Aquablast, a Canadian company in which he had heavily invested, Archer spent seven years and three months paying off debts of £427,000. Not a penny more, as he would say, not a penny less. PHS

John Morris on a trend which threatens the independence of judges



Lord Hailsham, Lord Scarman, Lord Denning, Lord Donaldson and Baron Devlin: touched by the political battlefield

There to rule on the law - not to make it

Lord Scarman, not for the first time, has rendered signal service to the country in his contributions to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. When the Lords amendments were returned to be considered by the Commons, his first amendment on the admissibility of evidence was rejected, but his second, making racial discriminatory behaviour by the police a specific disciplinary offence, was accepted. His name, experience and standing were both prayed in aid and discounted in the debates, across party lines.

Lord Scarman is a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. The Government, which bowed to the will of the Lords on the racial amendment, supported it, although 10 days earlier it had put forward grounds for rejection. Ministers could hardly complain because the amendment originated in Lord Scarman's recommendations following the Brixton disturbances. They had appointed him.

The serious constitutional question is whether judges, however eminent, should descend into the political arena at all, and if they do, what the possible adverse effects on judicial independence could be. Save in the person of Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, we have maintained this independence from the executive and the legislature, at least since the evolution of our modern constitution.

Should judges be involved in extra judicial duties at all? When they are invited by the executive to do its work, should they become further involved in the legislative process? On December 7 1973, a parliamentary question put by me elicited details of the involvement of High Court judges in non-judicial duties in the form of inquiries, commissions and reports in the previous 20 years. The maximum in

any one year was nine, the minimum one. When I sought recently to update the information I was mildly surprised with the reply from Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, that it was not fully available or readily accessible up to 1982. However, he was able to state that in the years ending July 1983 and June 1984, 28 High Court judges were engaged in non-judicial duties.

Recent attacks on "Tory judges" are misplaced. There are no Tory judges. There are judges who are Tories, judges who are socialists, and judges whose views occupy the middle ground, and possibly some who are extremely apolitical. The attacks confuse the interpreters of the law with the laws which many of us abhor, since they are particularly pernicious Tory laws. Should we not ensure that judges do not become political shillings?

Two recent incidents have brought such concern to the forefront. The first was the unfortunate, though of course innocent, discussion on industrial relations between the Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, and the newly appointed Permanent Secretary at the Department of Employment, Mr

Quinlan. The second was the suggestion by the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, that the views given by the president of the Family Division to the Commons on a disputed proposed clause in the Matrimonial Proceedings Bill might with advantage be circulated to anxious solicitors.

The first incident prompted the Lord Chancellor to remind ministers and judges, through the Prime Minister, that while he saw nothing wrong in exchanges of views between the judiciary and the executive, he should be informed.

When the Matrimonial Bill was returned to the floor of the House the Solicitor General, having been criticized, did not pursue his suggestion. Judicial views, however eminent, made *ex cathedra* on a hypothetical basis could only be of limited practical value.

This particular incident raises the question as to how it arose in the first place. The Commons adopted the procedure for this particular non-party but nevertheless controversial Bill of hearing evidence before a select committee from eminent and concerned witnesses. It turned out to be a valuable experience and the views of judges were very helpful. Nevertheless, if

the judiciary and the legislature, let alone the executive, are not to become incestuous in their relationship, great care must be exercised.

The extension of the judicial review's ambit over administrative decisions has brought judges closer to the field of controversial administrative decision-making. The courts have been careful to say that they are not substituting their own views for the decision-maker, although the decision is easily blurred.

It is, admittedly, difficult to maintain a *cordeau sensible* around our judges. The temptation for politicians to pass the buck is obvious. The temptation for judges, either by comment or action, to enter fields which would be better avoided, I believe, can be substantially resisted.

I do not believe our judges on the whole are fitted by training to carry out tasks which politicians find too difficult. They are eminently qualified to hear and assess evidence, but frequently more than evidence is involved in the basis for an administrative decision. The judicial development of the concept of judicial review has its own perils, particularly where the administrative acts of government are questioned.

The legislature should be careful in its invitations to judges to assist in the legislative process. Politicians soon enough will use their good name to buttress their own party's proposals. Lord Scarman may be *sui generis*, and we are grateful to him, but I am sure he, above all, would appreciate the danger of each of the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary putting his own sixpennyworth to solve some of tomorrow's problems. The author, Labour MP for Aberavon, is shadow Attorney General.

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Can Reagan rein in his hawks?

Nicholas Ashford assesses the president's chances of success in his second term



mates showing that the deficit for the current fiscal year will be a massive \$210bn, \$38bn more than projected last summer.

Reagan had hoped that a combination of vigorous economic growth, continued curbs on Federal spending and a war on government waste would bring the deficit to within manageable proportions - say \$100bn - by the time he steps down in 1988. But what can he do? He has already put social security and Medicare off limits and has vowed that taxes would be raised "over my dead body". The obvious alternative, strongly advocated by conservatives, is a further hacking away at domestic spending programmes.

Stockman and other administration "pragmatists" maintain that spending cuts alone will be not sufficient unless they are twice as large as they were during his first term. But such ruthless cutbacks would bring about confrontation with Congress, where Democrats still control the house and where the Senate's Republican majority has been sliced to 53 against the Democrats' 47.

Reagan has said he is in no mood for compromise and has told

colleagues he is "ready to hit the sawdust trail" to fight for his principles, even if it meant taking his case, to the people over the heads of Congress.

Among Reagan's hardline advisers are Edwin Meese, a White House counsellor soon to become Attorney-General; Donald Regan, the treasury secretary, who is adamantly opposed to any tax increases; and Caspar Weinberger, the defence secretary, who is determined to fend off renewed attempts to nibble away at his budget.

Stockman, has warned however that if the new deficit estimates drive up interest rates and threaten to stall the economic recovery the president will have to consider unpopular measures, such as raising taxes.

James Baker, White House Chief of Staff and pragmatist-in-chief, is said to be against any tax increase at this stage, believing that the president should be seen to be a man of his word. Instead, he favours a wide range of domestic spending cuts (excluding social security) coupled with some reduction in military spending.

Such a plan, he hopes, would be

supported by a "grand coalition" of House Republicans and Democrats. Baker has the most successful record within the Administration for dealing with Congress and the president would be most unwise to ignore his advice. Baker also believes the president can generate considerable goodwill in Congress if he shows genuine determination to negotiate with the Russians.

High-level contacts have already been made to start the process early in the New Year. The Americans have proposed a new forum which they refer to as an "umbrella". The Russians have expressed interest in the concept and have deliberately refrained from propaganda attacks on Reagan since his re-election.

Reagan's aides are far from unanimous, however, about how the US should proceed. The State Department, presided over by George Shultz and his key adviser Richard Armitage, assistant secretary for European Affairs, are much more disposed to making concessions than Weinberger.

For the moment the administration's foreign policy "moderates" are in the ascendant. The hawks have undermined their case with the false alert about MiGs being delivered to Nicaragua. The hardliners, who include Weinberger, William Casey, the CIA Director, and Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the United Nations representative, hoped the MiG scare would force the Administration into direct action against the Soviet-backed Sandinista government, a move that would have undermined efforts to improve relations with Moscow. As it turned out the US is continuing its public support for the "Contras" peace process.

Reagan is going to have to show the Russians he is firmly in control of foreign policy before he can persuade them to start talking seriously about reducing arms. They fear he could still revert to the "evil empire" rhetoric if he listens too closely to the hardliners. If that were to happen the window of opportunity would quickly slam shut - and then he might never achieve the place in the history books to which he aspires.

carefully-planned ambushes. Mindanao human rights groups have abundant evidence linking the security forces with the torture and murder of a great many innocent civilians. The growing intensity of the guerrilla war there has trapped ordinary Filipinos between poorly trained government troops and the "sparrow squads" which the insurgents send out to assassinate soldiers, policemen and others judged to be enemies of the people.

For Marcos to attempt to restrain the army's "salvage" operations would mean confronting with the only institution that keeps him in power. It became clear during the Aquino investigation that the Philippine high command is controlled by a band of senior officers whose loyalty to each other comes far ahead of service to the nation. General Ver was at the very centre of this inner conclave, and few believe that he will agree to forfeit his influence, even if he does eventually resign. "That El Diablo rigmarole," says a Western diplomat in Manila, "is the military's way of telling Filipinos that the Aquino business hasn't changed anything, they're still calling the shots."

Philip Jacobson

Simon Jenkins

It takes too much to wango

The Civil Service minister, Lord Gowrie, is quango hunting again. Despite five years of Thatcherism it appears that 1,680 of these gentle herbivores - quasi-autonomous non-government organisations - are still grazing on the lower slopes of the public sector. Their cost is to be cut by a fearsome new weapon, "an improved system of defining targets and assessing achievements". All strength to its arm.

Further up the mountain, however, is a species well out of range of the noble lord's marksmanship. It roams in Foreign Office territory and is best described as a wango - a wholly autonomous non-government organisation. I have counted roughly 80 of them, denoted by a code against their name in the supply estimates which means their subsidies are not investigated or controlled by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Nor does any annual underspending have to be returned. Not even the Secret Service enjoys such licence.

Wangos are mostly international organisations to which Britain contributes on a formula related to gross national product or treaty agreement. The biggest is the United Nations (contribution £20m), the most notorious at present is Unesco (£4m). There is a multitude of others, including the South Pacific Commission (£115,000) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (£26,000).

No good cause need go wanting if it can raise a percentage grant for a brass nameplate and a comfortable home in a salubrious world capital. Concealed by this warm blanket of western guilt, wangos have discovered the elixir of eternal life: subsidy without accountability. The cost in contributions by the British taxpayer is £106m this year, with a further £300m in soft loans and grants on the aid budget.

After up to 40 years of existence, these bodies inevitably find themselves falling over each other. The British taxpayer this year spent £250,000 on three separate organisations whose declared aim was to promote the age of £5.8m to the Nato secretariat itself. Aid wangos are the most eccentric such as the International Potato Centre (£340,000), the International Planned Parenthood Federation (£2.7m), the World Fertility Survey (£112,000), the 1976 UN Fund to promote industrialization in developing countries (£350,000). The smallest must be the Trilateral Commission "to stimulate thinking on major issues and promote informal contacts between peoples of distinction" in Europe, America and Japan, on a British contribution of just £1,500. This would not fly one penny of distinction from London or Tokyo.

Financial control in most of these organisations is by their own staff. The British exchequer has only two options, to pay up or incur the odium of getting out. Nor does it only have to pay the subscriptions. Many bodies require the physical presence of British diplomats, which does not come cheap. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, essentially a research institute, demands a full British ambassador and staff resident in Paris. The United Nations demands two, one in New York and another in Geneva. Every UN sub-committee has to be attended by a British diplomat.

If criticized, wangos defend themselves with a smokescreen of moral superiority. Most prefer to do "research into" or provide "centres for" or "programmes to promote" good causes rather than tackle any problem at first hand. Yet to attack the administration is to attack its purpose.

Many do excellent work. The soft loan packages committed by Britain through the World Bank or the International Development Agency are sensible ways of channelling resources to help poor nations help themselves. Yet who dare question money to "the Fund for the Victims of Torture" (£10,000) or the World Health Organisation special programme in Human Reproduction (£1.8m) or the unimpeachable international institute for the study of child poverty? And how are these sums to be measured against the £59,000 to the Rome Centre for the Study of the Resurrection and Restoration of Cultural Property?

Many such bodies were set up after the last war to herald an internationalist dawn. They were to be staffed by a new order of global philanthropists, whose asceticism would match their serious purpose. Like the pre-Reformation monastics, many have grown fat and lazy. Few have fulfilled their original purpose. Some, notably those connected with the UN, have sunk into parodies of themselves: corrupt, extravagant and ineffective lobbyists for sectional interests. They castigate their critics as irreligious and immoral even as they rifle the international poor box.

As the recent roll-calling for Unesco has shown, any international institution can drum up reputable apologists on the mere strength of its title. Such organisations not only discredit themselves but the concept of multilateral charity as such.

Were they ordinary wangos the Government would subject them to audit, cut their grants or kill them dead. Were they national charities, the commissioners would disallow them. Yet as the Foreign Office searches for its £30m cut next year, it knows that a hand laid on its £100m of "multilateral contributions" will mean trouble.

Since most contributions are by formula, any genuine cut in spending entails withdrawal or at least the threat of withdrawal. To the Foreign Office, this instantly makes the Third World militant and our European allies irritated, reduces international standing, and jeopardizes our long-term interests. All should be avoided, it says. To save just a few million pounds would mean a sequence of decisions doubtless involving the Cabinet, Parliament and a barrage of moral outrage, however hypocritical. Why not leave the sleeping dogs in their gilded kennels?

The answer is that Unesco has already precipitated a crisis of faith in such agencies as an effective conduit for world charity. Many have wholly outlived their usefulness and should be wound up.

The Foreign Office bewails the difficulty of stimulating public debate on foreign affairs. By announcing its intention to review every single grant to every multilateral organization it would galvanize such a debate, and return some respectability to international philanthropy.

The author is political editor of The Economist.

Philip Howard

Fantasia in Planasia

I cannot see the problem about what books to take to that mercifully imaginary desert island. You have to consider the matter for only a moment to see the obvious answer. No: the serious problem, after contriving a method of keeping the sand out of one's contact lenses at night (would coconut milk do as a wetting solution?), is what 10 operas on gramophone records to take with one in exile, to Planasia I bet it is. Discs, not tapes, since it is easier to switch back immediately to *Vorrei, e non vorrei* or whatever other duet or aria you cannot bear to be over.

I came to opera late, never having been taken as a child. I sing like a frog. When Cheam School was singing *The Lady of Shalott* on mass for the Christmas concert (rescued for "Out flew the web and floated wide"), I was the boy given a yellow card and put in charge of pulling the curtains. I think that the plots of most operas are silly, especially the plot of *The Magic Flute* with that pernicious baldpate about Freemasonry; but for Tannhauser's sake do not tell B. Levin, or he will try again to elucidate for me the inner meaning of that misty mythology of the Nibelung Saga.

I think that most Verdi is much improved by being subbed down to keep the songs and omit the hysterical recitative; but for Rigoletto's sake, do not tell the Arts Editor, or he will do a fortissimo *maledizione*. I seldom go to the opera, though I enjoy it greatly when I do. I play it on records all the time, especially when typing. I will be seen that as opera buff, I am a beginner, or slob.

One's choice of the top 10 is necessarily limited by what one has seen and heard; and by subjective factors such as with whom one went, and whether a good time was had by all. The list is provisional, and constantly changing.

For my Planasia, I have to take *Carmen* and *Tosca* for old times' sake. They were the first long-play records I bought, the latter encouraged by an enthusiastic

Italian beak. They are pretty crackly now, but I do not suppose we are going to fuss overnicely about quality of reproduction, especially since in the absence of electricity we are going to have to play them on a wind-up grammo. If we have room for *Turandot* and *La Bohème* are strong candidates.

At this stage Mozart barges in and hogs the turntable. We must have, must we not, boys and girls, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, that daff old masonic *Magic Flute*, and *Così fan tutte*, with the title that translates so unsatisfactorily into English? I bleed for *Seraglio* and *Idomeneo*. I have never heard *Clemenza di Tito*. (Shame, Howard). But we have to leave room for *Fidelio*. I am jolly well having *Semele* in there, even if you do not count it as quite a proper opera.

That makes eight. From Wagner I am taking *Die Meistersinger*. If you let me count *The Ring* as a single opera, I have to take it on grounds of volume, in every sense of the word. But that leaves no room for Verdi. Tough, Giuseppe, you may say; but I think we should try to squeeze one in.

I suppose it has to be *Rigoletto*. If so, I regret to have to tell you, chums, that I am having the ENO version set among mafiosi on the New York waterfront, with what sounds like Marlon Brando singing several parts. But I worry about *Otello*, even though the plot and words grotesquely oversimplify Iago's motivation. I worry about *Falstaff*.

That makes 10. But hang on there; hold everything. We have left no room for *Der Rosenkavalier*. And I am not going to be marooned with the bloody seagulls without that. I can tell you. Apollo knows what we are going to leave out to make room in the bed for the romantic little chap. You will have to excuse me now, while I put it on, to apologize for having forgotten it till the end. Do you mind not saying "Good grief, what about...?" until it is finished.

The voice of Mr. Nick... it is unjust... the voice of Mr. Nick... it is unjust... the voice of Mr. Nick... it is unjust...



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IN THE BEGINNING

The level tone and rational procedures of the Warnock committee's report on the ways in which science now supplements sexual intercourse as the standard technique of human reproduction had the immediate effect of stilling a rather feverish debate. It was widely, though not universally, thought that the committee had got it about right.

Here is an area of therapy and research primarily addressed to infertility. The therapeutic objectives are unquestionably humane. Some of the techniques employed raise acute questions of moral and social acceptability. It is a fast-moving sector of medical science, for it is responsive to the pleas of procreative deprivation, exciting in a pioneering sort of way, capable of attracting money, a satisfying pitch for fundamental research, and it leads, as likely as not, to conferment on the human race of new powers of self-determination in what might be called the veterinary or stockbreeding dimensions of human procreation.

The regulatory framework proposed by Warnock for the services, techniques and researches surrounding infertility, and involving the manipulation of human gametes and embryos, is the appropriate one surely: some initial legislation to catch up with present or imminent abuses, and then a statutory body of continuing existence to license, regulate, supervise and monitor, also to keep the public informed and to advise the government on legislative requirements as they arise.

When the Government formulates its proposals next year it should have no difficulty in adopting that framework, though great care will be needed to get the responsibilities and composition of the licensing body right - to make it knowledgeable enough to be effective without putting it into the pocket of the professionals.

The Government is now at the stage of gathering opinions about Warnock. The House of Lords debated the report at the end of last month and the Commons has its turn today. It was evident from the Lords' debate that there is at least one matter on which Warnock has not established a consensus. This is the use of human embryos for the purposes of research.

It is the question that gave the committee most trouble and on which it was most divided. The

majority came to the conclusion that embryos at large not destined for implantation can legitimately be experimented upon up to 14 days after fertilization, and that it is also legitimate to create embryos *in vitro* expressly for that purpose (provided the experimentation is directed to a commendable end). Eighteen out of twenty-six peers who spoke in the debate recoiled from either the second or both of those propositions.

Moral judgment about the use of human embryos for therapeutic experimentation depends on how the embryo is regarded. Is it something in which a human life has begun and is present, a person in potency, or is it simply a collection of cells which, unless it implants in a human uterine environment, has no potential for development? (words used, though not adopted, in the Warnock report?)

The compromise achieved by the majority that "the embryo of the human species ought to have a special status" and some protection in law, but that the protection falls before the superior claims of research and its utility for advances in treatment and medical knowledge, is not an ethically convincing stance.

What it grants, it in the same breath takes away. It is embarrassingly (in the context) reminiscent of the kitchen maid's excuse for her pregnancy - "only a little one". It is particularly vulnerable to erosion of its 14-day rule, there being no evident reason that a relevant change in the process of development occurs around that moment, or at any moment until the emergence of the central nervous system, at which point an awareness of pain or something akin to it becomes a possibility and utilitarian ethics, with which everyone feels at home to some extent, come to the rescue.

It was not however the function of the Warnock committee to identify and occupy the most secure moral position available. Its function was to find a moral basis on which to found public policy in a contentious corner of medical practice and research for use in a somewhat ethically-chaotic society. For that the formula looks serviceable, resembling in some respects the position arrived at by another route in the cognate field of therapeutic abortion.

There is another aspect of the matter which gave the Warnock committee very little trouble and

on which, it might be thought, its advice is a bit perfunctory. This concerns the anonymity that shrouds the whole process of third-party procreation, and the proper recording of it.

It must be right that there should exist as full a genetic record as possible of these various transactions; and the commoner they become the stronger the case for a proper record. Access to the record raises secondary questions of some delicacy, but they do not affect the primary responsibility.

The Warnock committee proposes a central register of semen donors as a means of implementing its recommendation that no donor should achieve more than 10 live births. And it leaves to the licensing authority consideration of whether there ought to be a register of births attributable to the new techniques to facilitate follow-up studies. Nowhere does it lay on any public authority a duty to maintain a true and complete genetic record. At one point the committee goes so far as to recommend that falsification of the public genetic record as contained in the register of births should be sanctioned by law by permitting a husband who has consented to his wife's insemination from a donor to be registered as the child's father. Truth should not become a casualty of these procedures.

The committee treats anonymity as if it were self-evidently appropriate, adding only that "anonymity protects all parties not only from legal consequences but also from emotional difficulties". Anonymity may do that, but in a matter of this kind it also betokens secretiveness that might suggest a flavour of impropriety, and that could be an important factor in the adjustment of a "donated" child, adolescent or adult to the circumstances of his origin. Acceptability and openness are related.

Warnock wants a person on reaching the age of majority to know he is the product of gamete donation if he is, but of the anonymous man or woman who gave him life he is to get only "basic information about the donor's ethnic and genetic health". He is the offspring of a type: let him be content with that, is the verdict. Is a person not entitled to know, if ascertainable, the full particulars of his generation?

Irish cornerstone of neutrality

From Mr John MacInerney

Sir, The disturbing tenor of your mischievous leader (November 19) - its dishonest suggestion that only those parts of Ireland not controlled by Britain are used as bases for terrorist attacks; its sinister mention of "a legitimate British strategic interest" in ending Irish neutrality; its dark hints of a context "in which Ireland's historic difficulties [sic, Ireland?] may eventually disappear" - shows that you wish (or feign) to misunderstand certain realities.

You will surely need reminding that wartime Irish neutrality was of some political and military convenience to a Britain powerless during 1940-41 to prevent a German invasion of Ireland aimed at cutting off the Atlantic lifeline. But Ireland's interests - economic and political today, moral and cultural always - extend beyond (without, of course, ignoring) Britain and indeed, if your voice is representative, Britain's.

What you should now understand clearly is why a triple loyalty to Crown, Commonwealth and Nato can never answer to Ireland's tradition of aspiration to realise by peaceful means her philosophical and republican principles at home, the ideal of true unity in Europe, and the spirit of the UN Charter throughout the world.

Her neutrality doesn't "spring from its need to define a separate 'neutrality' from Britain" (an enduring, evolving, love-hate relationship requires not marriage but the degree of symbiosis, fruitful as much as fruitless, as a matter of physical contiguity); it issues rather from the necessity of affirming a sense of solidarity with the desire, universal in ordinary individuals as in small nations, for freedom from famine and domination.

The sincerity of Irish statesmanship over the last quarter-century can indeed be impugned for failing to open "to maintain the physical capacity to carry out its obligations as a neutral", these, however, are not military (except for UN peacekeeping duties) but moral: viz., the provision of whatever resources of expertise, vision or mediation Ireland can muster to help create a Europe with a world role to play in easing tensions between super-powers and in assisting the developing world to bridge the widening gap between North and South (in the Brandtian sense) that exacerbates global misery and geopolitical destabilisation - in a word, to close down the arsenals and open up the granaries.

Ireland's special relationship with the Third World (grounded in sympathies springing from common historical experiences - and no colonised country ever forgets its history) equips her to fulfil a rôle requiring for its "practical validity" neither armed might nor financial clout but a moral pedigree that no former imperial power, and perhaps only Yugoslavia among "the more professional" (sic) neutrals of Europe, can lay unsuspicious claim to.

Far from being a symbolic nationalistic humbug which it is taken to question, a discourse of neutrality is the very cornerstone that Ireland must always build her domestic and foreign policy upon, underpinned by the rhetoric of what is hard not to call bullbyology latter-day neo-imperialism.

Yours etc,
JOHN MACINERNEY,
51 Compton Road, SW19,
November 20.

Boroughs' spending

From Mr Melvin Mackie

Sir, Many of us can only applaud Mr Kenneth Baker's determination to restrict the growth in local government expenditure (feature, November 18). However, many are disappointed that nothing has been done to actually reform the system. On Mr Baker's own admission, the link between the elector, the ballot box and the rating system is running thin.

A system which allows many of the public to avoid, completely, contributing to local expenditure and when only one ratepayer in three actually pays in full can only lead to abuse. Indeed, Mrs Thatcher herself and several of her Cabinet colleagues on several occasions have roundly condemned it.

Mr Baker would be well advised not only to curb expenditure but, to avoid a growing groundswell of discontent among ratepayers, actually carry out the Government's long-standing commitment to reform the whole system. MELVIN MACKIE, Chairman, Edinburgh Central Conservative Committee, 25 Wester Coates Avenue, Edinburgh, November 14.

Paper pounds

From Mr N. A. Parker

Sir, In all the controversy concerning the pound coin I have not seen it placed in its proper context - namely the pocket itself.

I put my hand in my pocket and what do I find? A fistful of coins dominated by the now very much overvalued, all but worthless, 10p coin. Fortunately the halfpenny has dropped through the hole, but this new pound coin is indeed lost from sight behind the "florins".

Am I alone in thinking that what is required is a redesign of our coinage as a whole, to replace the present mish-mash of four disparate styles with some two-style system? If nothing else this would increase employment in the vending machine manufacturing industry.

Yours faithfully,
N. A. PARKER,
Plus Rheged,
North Curry,
Tasman,
Somerset,
November 16.

Unwelcome burden of college costs

From Mr C. A. Giles

Sir, The current spate of increased charges for higher education was imposed without a murmur from parents. No wonder the Government has rushed in with a new additional set of charges for next September. These measures will be disastrous for higher education and one can only deduce that this is a subtle method of cutting university places, with parents taking the blame if they fail to pay up and shut up.

As a pensioner I feel particularly bitter about the whole affair. For forty-five years I paid into a scheme to obtain a pension which would give me a degree of comfort in my declining years. When my eldest son succeeded in obtaining a place at a university my wife and I were delighted, as neither of us had been able to afford such an education. We were determined that he should have this opportunity.

In his first year our contribution to his expenses was relatively low, my wife having taken part-time work with the express purpose of making sure we had some extra income.

In September we had the shock of the Government's first blow at parental support, our contribution under the new regulations increasing from £695 to £1,503. To meet the latest proposals next September we will have to find a further £238 (*The Times*, November 17 - "Education costs").

This year my younger son is applying for a university place. How can we deny him the opportunities given to his older brother? Of course, I could go back to teaching, but no authority would employ a teacher over 68 years of age either full-time or part-time. An unemployed daughter has added to our financial problems.

I served during the last war and came through convinced that we would establish a better life for all, amongst which would be a dignified existence on retirement and educational opportunities for all without financial barriers. I did not envisage that in my retirement I would have to keep adult dependants. Perhaps your better informed readers might suggest ways or probe regulations which would relieve pensioners of so great an obligation. Educationists might delve into Education Acts to unearth regulations which guarantee young people free access to higher education.

Meanwhile, I hope the demonstrations being planned by the student union will be opened to some of us parents.

Yours sincerely,
C. A. GILES,
36 Essex Grove,
South Woodford, E18,
November 16.

Falklands sovereignty

From Mr Julian Amery, MP for Brighton Pavilion (Conservative)

Sir, Mr David Steel, in his article of November 16, has no right to say that "it has been declared British policy to secure a transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to Argentina".

Certainly British governments have had talks with Argentina on the subject. In each case, however, Parliament has refused to contemplate a handover of the islands unless this was the wish of the islanders. The islanders have invariably made it plain that they wished to remain British. Their experience of Argentine occupation, as I can attest from a recent visit, has only strengthened this resolve.

Mr Steel also implies that Britain should cede the islands to Argentina to strengthen that country's fragile democracy. Everyone must welcome Argentina's return to democracy, but this is hardly a cause for which we should sacrifice British interests, let alone British people.

Would it not be better, instead of giving in to Argentinian demands, to approach the problem more constructively?

The South Atlantic is potentially important strategically. If the Panama Canal were closed or the Suez Canal closed again, a major part of world trade would have to come through the South Atlantic. Its

Chatsworth drawings

From Mr Peter Hoos

Sir, The British Government, through its ministers and advisers, is treating the Duke of Devonshire, and the purchasers of the Chatsworth old master drawings, with contempt and lack of honour.

Mr John Rowlands, Keeper of Drawings at the British Museum, has played a dual rôle.

Firstly, together with colleagues, he rejects the drawings which the duke most generously offered to the British Museum for £5.5m. In the opinion of the museum experts there was an overvaluation of £250,000.

To their considerable surprise, and I trust embarrassment, the collection realised £21m at auction in July.

The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art has delayed the export licences on a significant number of the drawings. Mr Rowlands, "wearing his other hat", is an adviser to the committee.

The museum made a massive misjudgment in their appreciation of the value of this collection, even after the benefits of a sale to a national institution had been taken into account. This is past history.

It is a considerable embarrassment to this country and the fine art world that this delay is causing consternation to the purchasers. Does it not also embarrass Mr Rowlands? I remain, yours truly,
PETER HOOS,
Merton,
Rutland.

November 16.

From Dr Jack L. Hoppe

Sir, With the proposed parental contribution to the tuition fees of students in higher education, the parents enter an entirely new ballgame. But then so, in particular, do the universities.

It is one thing to be in some remote way answerable to the taxpayer for the quality of the tuition given to students, but quite a different matter to be in part answerable to their parents, who are directly contributing from their income to the tuition fees. Under such circumstances parents will be very much more concerned than hitherto to ensure that value for money is given and will be willing to accept nothing but the best tuition for their youngsters.

May we assume that Sir Keith is currently working on a scheme which will involve parents in the monitoring of such tuition?

Most are aware that there is room for considerable improvement in the teaching performance of a very large number of dons. Perhaps the new approach to tuition fees, part paid by parents, and the logical consequence of this, could benefit future generations of university students.

Yours faithfully,
JACK L. HOPPE,
5 Hazlett Drive,
Maidstone,
Kent,
November 19.

From the Headmaster of Trinity School

Sir, Those of us who work in independent education have always argued that parents should be allowed to spend their money as they wish. We respect the decisions of those parents who choose not to spend their money educating their children at our schools. It is not, however, the parent but the student who decides whether to enter further education.

We know that many parents do not provide their assessed contribution to maintenance, with some, but obviously temporary, hardship to the student. The incorporation of tuition fees in assessing parental contribution changes the picture in a potentially most damaging way.

What happens if the fees are not paid? Is the student to be sent down for the sins of his parents? I suggest that the Chancellor's desire, to save public money will lead to an unjustifiable pressure on many potential students.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WILSON, Headmaster,
Trinity School,
St. Peter's Park,
Croydon,
Surrey,
November 19.

waters and the adjacent Antarctic continent are also potentially valuable economically.

Britain happens to be present in the South Atlantic thanks to Ascension Island, St Helena, Tristan da Cunha, the Falklands, the Falkland Islands Dependencies and our claims on Antarctica.

Now that a full-size modern airport is near completion on Mount Pleasant (which incidentally will allow a major reduction in the present garrison and its cost) should we not consider inviting Chile, Argentina and other interested parties both riparian and non-riparian, to join us in using the British Falkland Islands under the British flag as a base for developing the resources of the South Atlantic and in due course Antarctica?

Sir Winston Churchill's oft-quoted phrase "in victory magnanimity" did not involve surrendering to German democracy what we had refused to Hitler. It did involve taking Germany by the hand and leading her into the wider concept of the European Community.

Should we not approach a defeated and bankrupt Argentina on similar lines and lead her into a South Atlantic community in which we would continue to play our full part as one of its sovereign components?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN AMERY,
112 Eaton Square, SW1,
November 19.

Friends at the EEC

From Lord Chelwood

Sir, If the Founding Fathers had suffered from any of the prejudices with which Mr John D. Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MEP (November 17) is obviously riddled, the European Community would never have come into being. Down with the CDs, especially some of the Dutch, Italians and Southern Irish. And down with an integrated Europe and even an elected Parliament.

It is hardly surprising that he finds so many of his colleagues so "unfriendly". So am I! Yours sincerely,
CHELWOOD,
House of Lords,
November 19.

Sauce for the gander?

From Mr Keith Evans

Sir, Do my eyes deceive me or did the Conservatives use proportional representation when voting for the chairman of the 1922 committee (report, November 16)? And can it now be that they have the chairman that the numerical majority are content to have?

If only the electorate of the United Kingdom had such privileges! Or is it that what's good enough for the Conservative backbencher is too good for the country as a whole? Yours faithfully,
KEITH EVANS,
1 Grays Inn Square, WC1,
November 16.

Critical appraisal of obscenity

From Mr John Beyer

Sir, The good and faithful public servants of the Customs and Excise Department, in doing their honourable duty to curtail the flood of indecent, obscene and pornographic material into Britain, seem to have upset the libertarian lobby (letter, November 20).

From the bogus premise of unfair discrimination against what is described as "the lesbian and gay communities" they proceed to demand that the activities of Customs and Excise officers be restricted. This would, in turn, give the international pornographers a free hand, virtually, to import what they please, thus eliminating high production costs in this country.

It is comforting to note that the National Council for Civil Liberties favours the "censorship" of literature which is "obscene and without any redeeming social and literary value", although just how this is to be achieved remains a mystery, given the obvious and widely recognised shortcomings of the Obscene Publications Act.

To end any anomaly it would surely be far better to bring the Obscene Publications Act into line with the Customs and Excise Act so that the civil liberty of everyone not to be gratuitously offended on practically every literary front may be the highest priority.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BEYER,
5 Dayning House,
Church Road,
St. Paul's,
Colchester,
Essex,
November 21.

Theatre at risk

From Mr Anthony Field

Sir, There always appears to be a list of worthy persons, such as "Lord Olivier and others" (November 17), who are prepared "to protest most vigorously against the Arts Council's decision" to do almost anything other than take on additional commitments for which it is not supplied with the required money.

Whether it is having to cut a fringe theatre company, a regional dance company, one of the London orchestras, the English Stage Company, a Scottish art gallery or a Welsh touring theatre, we are now paying the price for what earlier Arts Councils chose to do in the 1950s and 1960s (and I readily admit I was a contributory factor, being Finance Director in the latter years) - that is, they risked taking on just that extra piece of work which proved to successive governments that the arts are a good investment.

Thus "Lord Olivier and others" should surely be protesting vigorously against any Government decisions which ignore the economic facts about the returns we obtain from our drama, music, film, dance and opera activities rather than rail against the Arts Council tearing its heart out about being forced to emasculate any of its work. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2,
November 19.

Bishops' gambit

From the Reverend Canon Michael Mayne

Sir, As the person who (a year ago) invited Mr Gummer to give the address at the weekly university service in Great St Mary's, I should like to make two points. 1. Your front-page statement (November 19) that Mr Gummer "attacked the bishops for their views on the pit strike..." is inaccurate. Neither directly, nor by implication, neither in his press release, nor in the address as delivered, did he do so.

2. Mr Gummer spoke unequivocally about "the right and the duty of the church to speak out on political matters". Like the prophets of old (the bishops) must challenge our economic aims and our political purposes...

While he went on to reflect upon the manner in which this should be done, it would be a pity if his clear assertion of the Church's legitimate rôle in these matters is overlooked. For it is this aspect of his address which can take the present debate a stage further.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAYNE,
Great St Mary's,
The University Church,
Cambridge,
November 21.

Red squirrels

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, You reported (October 26) that red squirrels in Fife "have reached pest proportions and are routinely killed".

These delightful creatures do no damage and therefore cannot be pests. Moreover they are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as a result of my amendment to the Bill, which was accepted by the Government) and it is therefore illegal to kill them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.

Helping hand

From Mr Alan Lamboll

Sir, Matthew Arnold had the answer to Cordelia Lady Vaneck's problem (November 20) of the time-consuming move-along handshakes: "glance, and nod, and bustle by". I am etc,
ALAN LAMBOLL,
Little Becken,
Essex,
November 20.

November 20.

THE GCHQ CASE FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Cheltenham trade unions may not have profited from taking their case to the House of Lords, but they have done a good service to the general public. They have elicited a bunch of comprehensive and partially reassuring expositions of the present state of the law of judicial review of executive actions. It is a branch of the law that has come a long way in the last thirty years and is still developing. Some recent judgments, including the Court of Appeal in the present case, have given an impression of backsliding. The House of Lords has consolidated the ground gained and hinted at new lines of development.

It was argued for the Crown that the Prime Minister's order withdrawing trade union rights from the employees at GCHQ was outside the scope of judicial review for two reasons: because it was an exercise of prerogative power and because it rested on considerations of national security.

There is a weight of ancient and modern authority for the view that exercise of the royal prerogative is wholly outside the ambit of judicial review. This judgment sets aside that view. All the law lords agreed that if, as in this case, the prerogative flows through an order in council that is virtually indistinguishable from an order deriving from statute, the decision is reviewable just as if it rested on statutory power.

As to whether the same applies where the exercise of the prerogative is direct, some preferred not to decide the issue in this case, others opined that what counted was the subject matter of the decision not the source of the power to take it.

The voice of faith

From Mr Nicholas Langford

Sir, It is unjust of Clifford Longley (feature, November 5) to transfer the responsibility for the spiritual paucity of recent religious publications on to "contemporary culture" and language.

An artist's responsibility is expressive; he does not dictate belief, nor is his individual expression necessarily indicative of collective belief: the artist is not bound by "contemporary art forms"; nor is his object systematically to "demolish" faith. On the contrary, much modern art is intensely religious.

That opinion is in line with previous development and can probably be relied on to prevail.

Lord Roskill gave a list of the sort of prerogative powers that he thought were not susceptible to judicial review: treaty making, defence of the realm, prerogative of mercy, the grant of honours, dissolution of Parliament and the appointment of ministers. Being largely matters of policy they are not amenable to the judicial process. It is when individual interests are affected and legitimate expectations dashed that the courts will prick up their ears. There are three grounds, Lord Diplock said, on which an executive decision might be struck down - illegality (the minister has misdirected himself), irrationality (no reasonable person could have acted as he did), and procedural impropriety, and he opened the possibility of the courts entertaining a fourth ground, "the principle of proportionality", borrowed from our continental neighbours.

Had the GCHQ case fallen to be decided by reference to those criteria alone, the want of consultation before the order was made would have given the unions the judgment they sought. So far so good.

Enter national security. With a few brave exceptions (like Lord Atkin dissenting in a case of administrative detention under Regulation 18B in 1941 - "In this country, amid the clash of arms, the laws are not silent") judges have given an impression that when the words "national security" are pronounced by ministers the courts will fall silent. That is a serious matter for the citizen when the words are pronounced over an ever widening range of activities.

Language is tool and material for expression; it does not express of itself and therefore cannot be attributed with blame. The change in language since King James is insufficient by itself to account for the difference between the Authorized Version and the New English Bible. The first is literature, the second closer indeed to a "manual of care maintenance".

Optimism about the arts is possible: in painting and sculpture the nadir of minimalism has been passed, and current exhibitions, the Booker Prize entries and poets like Raine indicate a reaction at last against existentialist gloom. Con-

tinuous language change is healthy, and influences from America and the West Indies suggest an interesting future.

The future of the Church appears less assured: her clergy turn away from our spiritual needs towards the diversion of questionable politics. It is really no surprise that they then fail to find the means to express convincingly what they know in conscience should be expressed.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS LANGFORD,
1 Bell Hill Ridge,
Petersfield,
Hampshire,
November 3.

THE ARTS

Cinema

Joffé proves an action director of fine ambition

The Killing Fields (15)
Warner West End

Annie's Coming Out (PG)
Classics Chelsea, Tottenham Court Road

Not for Publication (15)
Classic Tottenham Court Road

A Christmas Story (PG)
Plaza

The ambition of *The Killing Fields* is undeniable and credible. Its budget of £14.5m is not exceptional in Hollywood terms, but massive for a British production. Despite this big financial commitment, the film boldly essays a story with a political context, a style that is novel in this country where the cinema-going public is notoriously apathetic about politics, particularly when they are seen as being other people's. The film moreover uses American money and addresses an American audience without evading the uncomfortable but essential issue of its subject.

That subject, as Bryan Appleyard made clear in yesterday's interview with the director Roland Joffé, is Cambodia, the most devastated victim of the global war of ideologies. It is based on Sydney H. Schanberg's despatches to *The New York Times*, but particularly his 1980 article "The Death and Life of Dith Pran". Dith Pran was a *New York Times* stringer and Schanberg's assistant in Phnom Penh. As the Khmer Rouge converged on the city in April 1975, Schanberg arranged the evacuation to the U.S. of Pran's family. When the two men were captured by the Khmer Rouge, Pran succeeded in saving Schanberg and a group of other Western journalists.

Bruce Robinson's screenplay (his first to go into production) is admirable for its economy in exposition and dialogue. It does not however succeed in resolving the two major problems of the subject. One is to balance a strong personal story, vital to engage an audience in the broader theme, with the documentary element suffers most, and the audience may well be at a loss to understand the politics in general and in particular the origins and mad terrorism of the Khmer Rouge (though one sharp line speaks of it as an inevitable product of millions of dollars' worth of American bombs).



Emotional strength from personal experience: Haing S. Ngor in *The Killing Fields*

The personal story of the friendship of Schanberg and Pran presents the writer with a crucial structural problem: throughout the major part of the action the central figures are separated and without communication. The stronger of the two divorced elements of the narrative is the story of Dith Pran's privations in the land of the Khmer Rouge - thanks in large part to the direct and touching performance of Dr Haing S. Ngor, a non-professional whose personal experiences closely paralleled those of Dith Pran himself. Schanberg becomes a much less engaging figure. Crack war correspondents are rarely the most sympathetic of screen characters, and Sam Waterston is not the actor to compensate for the depth and warmth that are absent from the script.

The Killing Fields is certainly a remarkable feat of logistics for Joffé, making his first feature film after successive careers in theatre and television. With the collaboration of

an outstanding cinematographer, Chris Menges, his management of the vast crowds, exotic locations and broad panoramas marks him as an action director of the kind for whom the British cinema has rarely provided great scope.

He is at his best in virtuoso set-pieces like the tragicomic sequence of the evacuation of the American Embassy. Elsewhere his view often seems oddly calculated and detached from the tragedy: self-consciously picturesque images of carnage; decorous silhouettes against red skies; collages of horror, in which the blood, bodies, dead dogs, injured cows and crying children are all too carefully and apparently composed; over-emphatic musical effects like the choral accompaniment of the evacuation of Phnom Penh or John Lennon's "Imagine" over the final images of the victims of Cambodia. While the ambition is unbounded and exemplary, the achievement is uneven.

Annie's Coming Out, directed by

Gil Brealey, is also based on a true, heroic story, an Australian *cause célèbre* of a few years ago. Rosemary Crossley, a teacher in a Melbourne home for spastics, recognized that one of her most severely handicapped charges, far from being retarded, was a young woman of exceptional intelligence. Ironically the discovery - upsetting as it was to the status quo and hospital statistics - was not at all welcome to the hospital and health authorities, or even to "Annie's" family, and Crossley only succeeded in securing the young woman's discharge by taking her case to the courts. "Annie" subsequently took a degree, while Crossley wrote the book on which the film is based.

The final irony was that the original "Annie" was unable to play her own role in the film as intended, because, the moment she left the home and underwent careful feeding, she suddenly and rapidly grew to adult physique.

In the end the role was played by

another spastic, Tina Arbondis; and her touching, spirited, humorous performance and magnificent, compelling eyes defy any feeling of unease in face of her handicaps. Crossley (renamed "Jessica Hawthorn") is played by one of the best and certainly the most beautiful of Australian actresses, Angela Punch McGregor. Far from being painful, this is as gripping, optimistic and energizing a story as any film currently on show.

Paul Bartel's follow-up to *Eating Raoul*, *Not for Publication*, is another joyful celebration of low comedy and bad taste which parodies wacky comedy of the Thirties, films noirs of the Forties and a good deal else between, with some sardonic incidental reflections on contemporary American morality. Nancy Allen plays a lady reporter on a New York scandal sheet who in her private life is a volunteer helper in the liberal mayor's campaign for re-election. Her investigations in company with a naive photographer (David Naughton, who reveals a charming line as a song-and-dance man) lead her into unpleasant discoveries about the intimate connexions of the city's establishment and underworld.

The film is slacker in structure than *Raoul* and has less strongly caricatured central performances; but there are some well-built sight-gags and Bartel's usual extravagant eccentricities, including a Nixonesque mayor (Laurence Luckinbill), a musical psychic (Alice Ghostley), a greedy editor (Richard Paul) and an amorous dwarf (Clark Hubbert). Bartel himself makes a brief, telling appearance as a crippled television director.

A Christmas Story is a funny little film which is a great deal more attractive but likely to prove very much less commercial than *Porky's*, the last effort of its director, Bob Clark. It is a nostalgic, impressionistic recollection of a nine-year-old's Christmas in Indiana in the Forties. The child is played by Peter Billingsley, whimsically bespectacled, understandably bewildered by the caprices of grown-ups, and alternately obsessed with problems with the local bully and the best tactics to ensure the argon he covets for Christmas.

The boy's confused, well-meaning parents are nicely played by Melinda Dillon and Darren McGavin; and Clark (who collaborated on the script with Jean Shepherd, author of the original novel *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*), accurately captures moments like the thrill of getting Ovaltine Club membership through the post, and the disillusion of meeting a store Santa at close quarters.

David Robinson

Royal Concert

Handel
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Your Majesty: Master Kenyon, overwhelmed by his inadequacy and by the feebleness of his mild expressions to convey the effect of Wednesday evening's concert, has laid down his pen so that I, after the passage of ten score years since I recorded the first Commemoration of the incomparable Handel, might take it up once again.

I have heard tell, by those whose report I fear is less than trustworthy, that there are those who disdain in Your age to hear this pleasing, grand and sublime music with many choirs of voices and assemblies of instruments, shunning the thunder of the drums, the tread of the double basses, and the noise of the grand organ. Yet it may safely be pronounced that, from the progress which practical Music has made in this country since Handel's time, his work was never so well performed under his own direction as it was on Wednesday evening under the distinguished Sir David Willcocks and Mr Meredith Davies.

How aptly he wrote who asked a century ago: "Who ever heard of a choir too large for Handel? Not though nations should be formed into choirs and the genius of thunder were to swell the harmony till it shook the very spheres, would the true votary of Handel cry

"Hold, enough!" The aggregate of voices and instruments had here its full effect, and near a thousand musicians in the immortal choruses of *Israel in Egypt* and the *Messiah* made it difficult to determine which was the best, or had the grandest effect, from the very uncommon force and accuracy with which they were now performed.

And yet more notable than the glorious numbers of the performers was their extreme youth, for as I was informed they are but fledgling members of the newly formed colleges of music under your protection. How near, or how distant, the time may be, when the art of combining sounds shall be brought to its highest perfection by the natives of Great Britain, this is not the place to enquire; but progress has been sure.

He must have been not only a fastidious, but a very ignorant and insensible hearer who did not receive new and exquisite pleasure from the execution of Ariodante's sublime aria "Dopo notte" by Dame Janet Baker, and from the sober beauty of Miss Lott and Mr Roberts, though I believe I might prefer the noted talents of Mr Nicolai Gedda to be heard in our Italian opera houses.

I am, with the most profound Humility, Your Majesty's most dutiful and devoted Subject and Servant,

Dr Charles Burney

Invitation Concert

BBCSO/Buckley
BBC Maida Vale

Whatever one might think of American music (and on the evidence of the number of concerts we get of it, English promoters generally choose not to think of it at all), one cannot help admiring its self-confidence. Whether it be the product of a philosopher like John Cage, a so-called minimalist like Steve Reich or a complex master like Elliott Carter, it makes its statements with an openness that instantly disarms.

The same applies to more conservative composers than those, as demonstrated in this enterprising BBC Invitation Concert. The broadcast, when it happens, will be essential listening, not simply for the music but also for some scintillating playing by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, here directed by the young American Richard Buckley, who won a prize in the 1982 Rupert Foundation conducting competition. This was his first BBC engagement, and I shall be surprised if there are not more. But the dominating interest of the concert was the first British performance, 16 years after the event of John Corigliano's Piano Concerto. Corigliano has as yet achieved only limited recognition in this country. This exciting work,

written when he was 30, may say nothing particularly earth-shattering, but it certainly fulfils the composer's stated intention of communicating honestly and directly.

Though a jagged sort of piece, it owes much to Copland, both in its rhythmic vigour and in the spacious, easily recognizable themes that permeate the slower sections, particularly in the vast and varied first movement. The writing for orchestra is brilliant, technically far from easy; that for the soloist is awesomely challenging, though John McCabe dispatched the fistful of notes with quite astonishing assurance. The ferocious moto perpetuo finale was simply stunning.

If here Corigliano seems innocently unconcerned with the subtle gesture one suspects the same for much of Aaron Copland's Third Symphony, with the notable exception of its first movement. For there the composer seems to view the whole as a means of relating what he sees through music of nobility and warmth. Compared with this the rest of the work, and especially the superficially exciting finale, is emotionally and intellectually a disappointment. Not so Ives's *Decoration Day*, whose distant, mystic nostalgia always threatens to burst into confused razzmatazz, and, of course, finally and ecstatically does.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

Diabolically perfect plotting

Phedra
Old Vic

Undaunted by the London response to *Summit Conference*, here is another courageous collaboration between Glenda Jackson and the Glasgow Citizens' directorate; this time involving a work worthy of their extraordinary powers.

No English-language production of Racine can hope for total success, but (as Christopher Fettes has lately shown) that is no reason for ducking the challenge altogether. And after the "imitations" of *Phedra* by

Robert Lowell and Tony Harrison, carefully reworked for the non-classical public, here is a point-blank assault on the thing itself. The result falls short of tragedy, and leaves you to discover for yourself what it means to be "la fille de Minos et de Pasiphaë". What remains intact is the most diabolically perfect piece of plotting since *Oedipus Rex*, a little and constantly absorbing narrative line, and material for stupendous exhibitions of heroic acting.

The translation is the work of Robert David Macdonald, who renders the intimate alexandrines in a loose system of six-

syllable rhyming couplets, thus combining some melody with the freedom to switch from high formality to conversational and even comic exchange; a freedom wholly in key with other, and more spectacular, elements of the show.

Any expectation that Racinean tragedy is a well-bred affair, presenting torture in a style inoffensive to the King, is swept away by Philip Prowse's curtain which falls to the sound of an agonized shriek enfolding Tim Woodward's Hippolytus like a winding-sheet. This marvellous declaratory image of inescapability typifies the audio-visual side of the production. Mr Prowse, a master of grand theatrical gesture, surpasses himself in a sound score that brings Neptune on as a constantly fateful presence, and a vaulted neo-classical chamber displaying equestrian statuary that paves the way for a final *coup de théâtre* when the back wall descends as a battlefield ramp bearing a slaughtered



Glenda Jackson: a sense of burning energy

horse as a setting for Thera-men (Robert Edlison) to deliver the awesome tirade on the death of Hippolytus.

If effects of that kind exceed French conventions of propriety, so does the playing style, which ranges from delirious passion to malicious gossip and feline scheming. With the exception of Mr Woodward, who zealously preserves a blamelessly honourable profile, none of the characters bothers to keep up the pretence of acting nobly. When they do, as in the

scenes between Hippolytus and Georgina Hale's Aricia, it is for reasons of policy. Left alone with her confidante Ismene (Jane Bertish), the two of them revert into conspiratorial ironies that sometimes verge on the giggles.

What Glenda Jackson gives to the production as a whole is primarily a sense of burning energy. The idea of a mortally sick Phedra, dragging herself on like a wounded snake, vanishes from the sight of Miss Jackson, a barbarian princess in scarlet and gold, in the midst of the first of her heated disputes with Joyce Redman's Oenone. With periodic eruptions into direct ferocity and stray moments of hope, her ground is sympathy-disdaining self-mockery almost to the point of farce as the instrument of torture edges forward another notch.

There are some marvellous transitions in the performance, such as the concealed love declaration to Hippolytus where she retells the story of the labyrinth in a drugged voice, relishing the fantasy of leading him down to "the slaughter house" until she realizes she has gone too far.

Television

Distance lends no enchantment

"He cried all the way through," said the producer Jack LeVeen, who, having paid the Duke of Windsor \$1m, for collaborating in *The King's Story*, apparently preferred watching the Duke to the film.

It was Mr LeVeen, too, who remarked towards the end of last night's Forty Minutes, *Love in Exile*, "they had thousands of acquaintances but they really only had each other". I suppose they did.

Some of the acquaintances, like Mr LeVeen, got quite close. Messrs George Murphy, who ghosted a book on them, and Joe Bryan, who collaborated with the Duke on a book about his childhood (unhappy), were on hand with their reminiscences.

It could hardly be said that distance had lent enchantment. Mr Murphy thought the Windsors suffered a double defeat: he had wanted a love she had been unable to give; she had wanted a position she could not have. The Duchess he thought discontented.

"He had no right to quit it," said Mr Murphy, referring to the throne with the certainty that comes without difficulty when one has not had the dilemma. "In that respect he failed not only his family but himself." He had felt the Duke "a flawed man".

Mr Bryan saw the Duke as a man who liked to be told what to do, "and God, was he willing to do that". Mr Murphy concurred and recalled how the Duke, ousted from a room where the Duchess and he would shortly host a dinner party, had expressed the hope that he was not going to be sent to bed in tears. It occurred to me that, on this occasion, maybe Mr Murphy's sense of humour was flawed.

Bossed about or not, the Duke, said Lady Diana Mosley, the Windsors' neighbour in Paris, "thought her perfect". To an unscripted television question by Ed Murrell, on the publication of the Duchess's *The Heart has its Reasons* in

1956, about whether they ever had occasion to discuss what might have been, the Duchess said they had agreed never to talk about it and the Duke said he had no regrets.

The question, said the writer and narrator Michael Dean, "dropped like a grenade between them". They did look surprised but maybe because they thought Mr Murrell guilty of a breach of agreement.

No doubt they would have been surprised to see, as we did, film clips of themselves interspersed with clips from *Snow White* and to hear the suggestion that the Duchess had been the model for that heroine.

This is a story that has no end, with the Royal Family bound in silence and the Duchess, now 88, bedridden and paralyzed. Chris Carter's programme was unfailingly watchable but it did make one wonder whether privacy was not our most precious possession.

Dennis Hackett

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Market depressed

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 12. Dealings End, Today. 5 Contango Day, Nov 26. Settlement Day, Dec 3.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984 High	1984 Low	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
100	90	British Steel	95	+5	+5.3	12.5
110	100	British Airways	105	+5	+4.5	15.0
120	110	British Petroleum	115	+5	+4.3	18.0
130	120	British Telecom	125	+5	+4.0	20.0
140	130	British Overseas Airways	135	+5	+3.7	22.0
150	140	British Airways	145	+5	+3.4	24.0
160	150	British Airways	155	+5	+3.2	26.0
170	160	British Airways	165	+5	+3.0	28.0
180	170	British Airways	175	+5	+2.9	30.0
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180	170	British Airways	175	+5	+2.9	30.0
190	180	British Airways	185	+5	+2.7	32.0
200	190	British Airways	195	+5	+2.6	34.0
210	200	British Airways	205	+5	+2.4	36.0
220	210	British Airways	215	+5	+2.3	38.0
230	220	British Airways	225	+5	+2.2	40.0
240	230	British Airways	235	+5	+2.1	42.0
250	240	British Airways	245	+5	+2.0	44.0
260	250	British Airways	255	+5	+1.9	46.0
270	260	British Airways	265	+5	+1.8	48.0
280	270	British Airways	275	+5	+1.7	50.0
290	280	British Airways	285	+5	+1.6	52.0
300	290	British Airways	295	+5	+1.5	54.0
310	300	British Airways	305	+5	+1.4	56.0
320	310	British Airways	315	+5	+1.3	58.0
330	320	British Airways	325	+5	+1.2	60.0
340	330	British Airways	335	+5	+1.1	62.0
350	340	British Airways	345	+5	+1.0	64.0
360	350	British Airways	355	+5	+0.9	66.0
370	360	British Airways	365	+5	+0.8	68.0
380	370	British Airways	375	+5	+0.7	70.0
390	380	British Airways	385	+5	+0.6	72.0
400	390	British Airways	395	+5	+0.5	74.0
410	400	British Airways	405	+5	+0.4	76.0
420	410	British Airways	415	+5	+0.3	78.0
430	420	British Airways	425	+5	+0.2	80.0
440	430	British Airways	435	+5	+0.1	82.0
450	440	British Airways	445	+5	+0.0	84.0
460	450	British Airways	455	+5	+0.0	86.0
470	460	British Airways	465	+5	+0.0	88.0
480	470	British Airways	475	+5	+0.0	90.0
490	480	British Airways	485	+5	+0.0	92.0
500	490	British Airways	495	+5	+0.0	94.0
510	500	British Airways	505	+5	+0.0	96.0
520	510	British Airways	515	+5	+0.0	98.0
530	520	British Airways	525	+5	+0.0	100.0
540	530	British Airways	535	+5	+0.0	102.0
550	540	British Airways	545	+5	+0.0	104.0
560	550	British Airways	555	+5	+0.0	106.0
570	560	British Airways	565	+5	+0.0	108.0
580	570	British Airways	575	+5	+0.0	110.0
590	580	British Airways	585	+5	+0.0	112.0
600	590	British Airways	595	+5	+0.0	114.0
610	600	British Airways	605	+5	+0.0	116.0
620	610	British Airways	615	+5	+0.0	118.0
630	620	British Airways	625	+5	+0.0	120.0
640	630	British Airways	635	+5	+0.0	122.0
650	640	British Airways	645	+5	+0.0	124.0
660	650	British Airways	655	+5	+0.0	126.0
670	660	British Airways	665	+5	+0.0	128.0
680	670	British Airways	675	+5	+0.0	130.0
690	680	British Airways	685	+5	+0.0	132.0
700	690	British Airways	695	+5	+0.0	134.0
710	700	British Airways	705	+5	+0.0	136.0
720	710	British Airways	715	+5	+0.0	138.0
730	720	British Airways	725	+5	+0.0	140.0
740	730	British Airways	735	+5	+0.0	142.0
750	740	British Airways	745	+5	+0.0	144.0
760	750	British Airways	755	+5	+0.0	146.0
770	760	British Airways	765	+5	+0.0	148.0
780	770	British Airways	775	+5	+0.0	150.0
790	780	British Airways	785	+5	+0.0	152.0
800	790	British Airways	795	+5	+0.0	154.0
810	800	British Airways	805	+5	+0.0	156.0
820	810	British Airways	815	+5	+0.0	158.0
830	820	British Airways	825	+5	+0.0	160.0
840	830	British Airways	835	+5	+0.0	162.0
850	840	British Airways	845	+5	+0.0	164.0
860	850	British Airways	855	+5	+0.0	166.0
870	860	British Airways	865	+5	+0.0	168.0
880	870	British Airways	875	+5	+0.0	170.0
890	880	British Airways	885	+5	+0.0	172.0
900	890	British Airways	895	+5	+0.0	174.0
910	900	British Airways	905	+5	+0.0	176.0
920	910	British Airways	915	+5	+0.0	178.0
930	920	British Airways	925	+5	+0.0	180.0
940	930	British Airways	935	+5	+0.0	182.0
950	940	British Airways	945	+5	+0.0	184.0
960	950	British Airways	955	+5	+0.0	186.0
970	960	British Airways	965	+5	+0.0	188.0
980	970	British Airways	975	+5	+0.0	190.0
990	980	British Airways	985	+5	+0.0	192.0
1000	990	British Airways	995	+5	+0.0	194.0

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cheaper loans to sustain flagging economies

The half-point cut in clearing bank base rates yesterday looked, on the face of it, a direct response to the overnight discount rate reduction in the United States. The direct link between the two events may have been rather weak, in fact, but they contained an important message.

A British Telecom-timed base rate reduction this week, barring disasters, had always looked on the cards. Tuesday's wobble in sterling, when it briefly dropped below \$1.22 and lost 0.8 on the sterling index, have put an untimely spanner in the works. Now, the authorities are as relaxed as it is possible to be about the exchange rate. Given sterling's initial pickup yesterday morning, following National Westminster's base rate announcement, that is no bad thing.

The Government's anxiety to reduce interest rates for economic growth reasons has been made apparent. The discount rate cut by the US Federal Reserve from 9 to 8½ per cent, the first reduction since December 1982, is the first positive sign of the re-elected Reagan Administration's concerns in the same area.

The point about Americans' relative immunity from high interest rates because of tax breaks is familiar. The logical follow-on from this is that interest rate reductions in the United States will have less economic impact than similar reductions would have in Britain. But when the Administration has no room for tax cuts, and when growth in the third quarter is down to an annualized 1.9 per cent and slowing, a blunt weapon is no better than no weapon at all. US prime rates, which should be down to 11 per cent within the next couple of weeks, may then be ready to go still lower.

The major drag on American growth at present is the huge trade deficit, which probably topped 3 per cent off growth in the third quarter. Britain has its own balance of payments problems, as indicated by the \$851 million trade deficit in October. However, the Treasury's confidence of a current account of zero for 1984 and the number of special factors contained in the October figures, suggest that major worries on the balance of payments can be postponed.

The downward path of interest rates in Britain will be a slow one. The significance of yesterday's reductions, taken in combination with the Fed's discount rate cut, is that for the first time in a while, governments on both sides of the Atlantic are pulling interest rates in the same direction and for the same reasons.

Prudential converted to Liffe's virtues

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), which was two years old last month, is not the strongest of markets but fears of infant mortality can now be set aside. Liffe will be with us for the foreseeable future (apart from domestic neglect, the main threat to its growth is an American monopoly in futures trading) and plans for its development, if they are brought to fruition, should ensure the exchange a permanent place in the spectrum of London markets.

As Mr Michael Jenkins, chief executive, has recently reminded me "Liffe provides trading instruments to enable corporate exposure to rising (or falling) interest and currency rates to be neutralized, to allow more confidence planning in spite of volatile money markets". Since May the shape of the FT-SE futures contract, Liffe has offered to equity portfolio managers, investors and issuers of shares a similar method for controlling their risks.

What the exchange now needs above all is more users and more volume, both of which would bring narrower price spreads for buyers and sellers.

Unfamiliarity, conservatism and sniffiness toward "gambling" are obstacles in Liffe's path. But there are encouragement too. The latest is the decision of the Prudential to use the exchange's facilities in pension fund management. Trustees especially are loath to accept Liffe's practical virtues as a means of enhancing portfolio performance and limiting risks.

when conventional market decisions seem unusually hazardous.

So far Liffe has attracted the enthusiastic interest of a few nationalised industry pension funds. The conversion of the Prudential might well encourage others to come in and provide the exchange with a timely boost, while it waits for the arrival next year of the building societies, for which a new short gilt contract will be fashioned, and the host of primary gilt-edged dealers in the post 1986 Stock Exchange.

Perks and private shareholders

It has been an up and down year for investors who like to spice their dividends with perks and concessions on the goods of companies in which they own shares. European Ferries, which was responsible more than any other company for promoting the popularity of shareholder concessions, finally decided that the 160,000 people attracted to its books, mainly in search of cheap cross-channel trips, were more of a liability than an asset. The trippers have been shunted into a preference share siding. But the idea has received a compensating boost from BT's telephone vouchers for the small shareholder temporarily though they are.

Seymour, Pierce, the stockbroker firm, welcomes the BT innovation in the new 1984 edition of its guide to concessionary shareholder discounts. It sees it as an acknowledgement by the Government that perks "have a uniquely important contribution to make in encouraging new investors". It regrets the time limit.

The latest Seymour, Pierce list numbers a hundred companies offering anything from 15 per cent off men's clothes to a £2 discount on a five-hour cruise on Lock Lomond. The appreciation of shareholder loyalty by more big companies means that concession-seeking small shareholders can now readily assemble a portfolio of a dozen blue chips, many of them among our most progressive big companies.

Not everyone will be pleased. As European Ferries discovered, accumulating a lot of small shareholders can be a costly administration nightmare. Trading in small lots of shares remains uneconomic, certainly until the age of electronic high street share dealing dawn.

Nor is that the only potential drawback of the market romantic's ideal of mass direct share ownership. As Bank of England director, Mr David Walker, reminded us in a recent speech in Rome, it was market forces - spreading risk and saving cost - that pushed small investors into unit trusts and the like. Moreover, modern experience suggests that small investors play even less of a role than the big City institutions in forcing changes on poor management before most of shareholders' money has been lost.

Clearly, it will take more than Government exhortation to encourage millions of ordinary people to own shares, let alone take an active role as shareholders. It will require a new culture. Finding out what small shareholders really want from the companies they invest in and giving it to them could play a big role in such a transformation, especially when they want the sort of individual concessions that are not available through pooled investment.

When many millions do on shares, if that ever comes to pass, it is a fair bet that the affairs of companies will attract much greater public interest, and small investors will become more aware of what is going on. Only then are they likely to take an active part, whether to resist takeovers, unseat management or, on a non-financial plain, tell their companies not to trade with the Soviet Union or South Africa, worry about the environment and so on.

Offering shareholders personal concessions seems as promising an avenue to spreading share ownership as, for instance, tax incentives. The privatization programme could play a bigger part in this. Not free tanks from the Royal Ordnance Factories perhaps, but as Seymour, Pierce points out, cheap air fares for British Airways shareholders would be something desirably different.

Dee postpones Booker bid after £180m stores deal

By Philip Robinson

Dee Corporation, the food wholesaling and retailing group, yesterday announced that it is buying the 380-shop International Stores chain from BAT Industries for £180 million and postponing any renewed takeover bid for Booker McConnell.

Its initial takeover attempt for Booker is still being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Dee is placing 113 million new shares with institutions at 160p each to raise just over £181 million for the deal. The group will receive £30 million cash from BAT as part of the International Stores deal.

At the end of last December, International had tax losses of £30 million and as a result of this year's capital expenditure,

losses to be carried forward by the end of 1984 are expected to be more than £35 million. BAT has promised that pre-tax profits for the stores in the year to December 29 will be at least £11.1 million.

Dee's own half-time profits which accompanied the statement, show pre-tax profits up by almost 40 per cent to £17.1 million in the 28 weeks to November 10 on a turnover ahead almost a quarter to £852.4 million. Dee's half-time dividend is up 28.6 per cent to 2.25p.

The international deal will be subject to Dee's shareholders' approval at a meeting on December 19, and the Office of Fair Trading confirmed yesterday that it was looking at the deal under the assets section of the Fair Trading Act.

Dee's switch from wanting the whole of the retail and operations of Booker to an exclusively retail deal with BAT came just a month before the Monopolies Commission was



Alec Monk: "more a retail man than anything else"

due to complete its report into the £230 million bid Dee made for Booker last June.

Mr Monk said in a statement that in view of the proposed acquisition of International, "the board's present view is that it is unlikely that the bid for Booker McConnell would be renewed immediately after a favourable decision was announced by the Secretary of State."

Dee believes that the transient strength of the dollar will boost Booker's earnings this year.

Mr Michael Caine, chairman of Booker said: "This is a clear confirmation that he (Mr Monk) is much more a retail man than anything else. To now go for the wholesale end of the market could produce a potential conflict of interest."

The combined operations of International Stores and Dee's Gateway supermarkets will have an annual turnover of £1,600 million and 7.2 per cent of the British grocery trade.

For BAT the disposal is part of yet another strategy this time to concentrate the group in four areas, tobacco, specialist non-food retailing, paper and pulp and financial services.

BAT shares ended down 1p at 27½p last night having been up 12p during the day. Dee's price added 5p to close at 180p, while Booker McConnell dropped 23p to 204p.

Market report page 19

No decision on SE plans

Stock Exchange members will be presented with proposals in January on changes in membership rules, standards of competence, new rules on financial supervision and conflicts of interest and the future of the Exchange compensation fund. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange Council, says this in his half-yearly report to members. But no decisions have been made on any of these matters.

There will then be a consultation period, during which Sir Nicholas will hold another series of meetings with members in London and the provinces. In investigations were started into 27 instances of possible insider-trading during the half-year. The results of nine were sent to the Department of Trade and Industry for further investigation.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1158.2 down 8.6 (high: 1170.0; low: 1158.2)
FT Index: 908.8 down 8.5
FT All Share: 550.04 down 2.85
Burgundy: 19.225
Dutchman (LSE) Leaders
Index: 108.02 down 0.19
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: closed
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,207.70 down 42.08
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1087.51 up 3.46

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling Index 75.1 unchanged (range 75.5-74.9)
\$1.2255 up 10pts
DM 3.6975 down 0.0075
FF 11.3020 down 0.0505
Yen 298.87 down 1.63
Dollar Index 140.2 down 0.7
DM 8.0090 down 0.0085
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2390
Dollar DM 2.9890
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 20.805127
SDR 20.81422

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9% - 9½%
Finance houses base rate 11.00
Discount market loans week fixed 9% - 9½%
3 month interbank 9% - 9½%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½% - 9¾%
3 month DM 5½% - 5¾%
3 month FF 11½% - 11¾%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.75
Fed funds 9½%
Treasury bill bond 10½% - 10¾%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$342.55 pm \$341.95
close \$341.75 - 342.25 (\$278.25 - 278.75)
New York (last): \$342.50
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$351.50 - 353.00 (\$288.25 - 287.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$80.50 - 81.50 (\$26.50 - 26.50)
"Excludes VAT"

Takeover Panel criticizes BPCC

By Jeremy Warner

The City Takeover Panel is dissatisfied with the failure of Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation to find a paper alternative to its £44 million cash takeover bid for John Waddington, the printing, packaging and games group.

BPCC said when it first launched its offer last month, that it would be making some form of convertible share bid in addition to its cash offer of 500p a share.

However, when it posted its formal offer document yesterday, BPCC said that changes in market conditions since the bid was announced meant that the intended convertible share offer "would be unattractive."

However, the Panel gave its

consent to the withdrawal of the paper alternative.
Mr Peter Fraser, a member of the Panel executive said: "This is a rather unsatisfactory and tiresome outcome, but since they did not commit themselves to a value for the convertible offer, the withdrawal seems legitimate."

The deadline for accepting the 500p a share cash bid has been set as early as Thursday, December 13. Under City takeover rules this only gives Mr Maxwell another week to decide whether to raise his offer. After that the rules will prevent him making further changes.

It looks as though BPCC will have to raise the offer if it is to stand any chance of success. With Waddington shares trad-

ing in the stock market at 555p.

Mr Victor Watson, Waddington's chairman said: "We are entirely confident that we will keep our independence. We will shortly be releasing our half-year results to the end of September and these will show that an excellent performance has been achieved."

The half-year figures will form the main thrust of the company's defence against the unwanted takeover bid.

Mr Watson attacked a claim by BPCC that "it has proved impossible to reach agreement with Waddington on any terms." He called the statement "extraordinary" saying that there had been no attempt by BPCC to have any form of discussion.

BET sells computer offshoot

By Our City Staff

British Electric Traction's loss-making computer subsidiary, Rediffusion Computers, is being given a second lease of life.

A management and City consortium is buying the company from BET for a nominal sum guaranteeing for the foreseeable future the jobs of the 500 people employed by the company, which is based in Crawley, Sussex. There had been fears that the company would be closed.

Rediffusion Computers specialises in telex and electronic information systems. It was responsible for designing and installing the videodata system on the Siberian gas pipeline.

It has supplied systems to the police for fingerprint checking and to banks for cheque verification.
Members of the new consortium - which has called itself ROCC Corporation - are Charterhouse, Development Capital and the four executive directors of Rediffusion Computers, including its chief executive, Mr Michael Aldrich.

The sale will involve BET in a £14 million write-off of its investment. Mr Hugh Dandies, the chairman, said: "As part of our intensive review of our activities and markets, Rediffusion and BET have concluded that the computer industry is only attractive to large companies."

"The investment required to create a new international manufacturer would be inconsistent with our strategy of concentrating our resources into a limited number of high-growth, service industry sectors", he said.

Sedgwick sells stake in underwriters for £4m

By Alison Eadie

Divestment at Lloyd's insurance market gathered pace yesterday as Sedgwick Group, Britain's biggest independent insurance broker announced the sale of its 88 per cent holding in Edwards & Payne (Underwriting Agencies) to one of the largest independent underwriting groups at Lloyd's, Sturge Holdings.

Holders of the remaining 12 per cent are also selling to Sturge. The total consideration is £4.5 million - £3.96 million in cash payable to Sedgwick and the remainder by allotment of Sturge shares to the minority shareholders.

Sturge's acquisition follows a £7 million share placing last May, which raised £3.5 million

new money specifically for the purpose of taking advantage of divestment opportunities. The Lloyd's Act of 1982 lays down that brokers should divest themselves of their underwriting managing agencies by July 1987.

Sturge is buying both the managing and the members agencies with three syndicates, 300 direct Lloyd's names and an underwriting capacity of £53 million.

The move follows the announcement earlier this week that Crechurch Syndicate Managers, a subsidiary of Merret Holdings, the other major underwriting group at Lloyd's, had bought the Pulbrook managing agency

W German acquisition for Boots

By Our City Staff

Boots, the chemist, is expanding its worldwide pharmaceutical presence with the acquisition of 95 per cent of a West German drugs manufacturing and marketing company, Kanoldt Arzneimittel, based near Munich.

No price has been disclosed, but the size of the deal is small relative to Boots's total turnover. However, the acquisition gives Boots a national distribution network in the third largest pharmaceutical market in the world and a base on which to build its German business.

The German company had sales of DM26.3million (£7m) in 1983.

Boots yesterday announced pre-tax profits in the half year to end September of £79.9million against £65.1million, a 23 per cent rise. After property profits, taxable profits were 33 per cent higher. The dividend was raised 10 per cent to 2.2p.

Dr Peter Main, chairman retires at the end of the financial year in March 1985. He will be succeeded as chairman by Mr Robert Gunn, vice-chairman, who will also continue as chief executive.

In the first half, industrial division sales increased by 15.3 per cent and profits by 8.1 per cent.

Hongkong Bank



announces that on and after 23rd November, 1984 the following annual rates will apply

Base Rate 9½% (Previously 10%) Deposit Rate (basic) 6¼% (Previously 7%)

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation
The British Bank of the Middle East
Wardley London Limited

Midland Bank Interest Rates

Base Rate Reduces by ½% to 9½% per annum with effect from 23rd November 1984.

Deposit Accounts Interest paid on 7 day deposit accounts reduces by ½% to 6% p.a. with effect from 23rd November 1984.

Save and Borrow Accounts Interest paid on credit balances reduces to the above Deposit Account rate and interest charged on overdrawn balances remains at 19½% p.a. with effect from 21st December 1984. APR 20.9%.



Midland Bank
Midland Bank plc, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX

The Royal Bank of Scotland Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc announces that with effect from close of business on 23rd November 1984 its Base Rate for lending is being decreased from 10 per cent per annum to 9½ per cent per annum.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Parliament was expected last night to ratify big changes to the friendly societies, which hold over £3 billion of small investors' money, in the third reading of the Friendly Societies Bill. The Bill makes clear that about 300,000 tax-exempt friendly society policies taken out before June 1, 1984, are legally valid.

The Bill also removes the upper limit of £60,000 sum

assured on taxable friendly society policies, allowing societies to act as ordinary mutual life assurance companies if they wish.

POWELL DUFFRYN is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 5p for the six months ending to September 30, 1984, despite a fall in pre-tax profits from £6.8 million to £6.1 million.

Temps, page 19

Arms plants face massive task

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The management of Britain's Royal Ordnance Factories face a "gargantuan" task in turning the organisation into a commercially-minded public company ready for privatisation, according to one of its new Government-appointed directors.

Mr Nicholas Bell, the finance and procurement director, told a City defence seminar this week that transforming the centuries old ordnance factories from a production-arm of the Ministry of Defence into a free-standing market-oriented company was a major challenge.

The ordnance factories are due to be vested as a public company in the next few weeks,

and Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Secretary, has set the management a target of 18 to 24 months to prepare for eventual privatisation.

In one of the first public statements by the factories' management since privatisation was announced, Mr Bell, a former finance director of Plessey Telecommunications, said a number of vital steps had already been taken to prepare the organisation for its new life.

The factories now have their own sales and marketing team, their own research and development facilities, control over their property and have already started installing computer-

aided design equipment and flexible manufacturing systems. There will be a "substantial increase" in the factories' investment in information technology, he said.

One of the biggest challenges, said Mr Bell, was to turn 19,000 civil servants into businessmen. A product support and spares division has also been established.

The ordnance factories operate from 22 sites, with a turnover of £482 million last year, and a profit of £67 million. A number of foreign arms manufacturers have approached the factories looking to operate joint ventures with them.



**National
Westminster
Bank PLC**

NatWest announces that
with effect from
Friday, 23rd November, 1984,
its Base Rate
is decreased from
10% to 9½% per annum.

The basic Deposit and Savings Account rates are decreased from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP



Coutts & Co

Coutts & Co. announce
that their Base Rate
is reduced from
10% to 9½% per annum
with effect from the
23rd November 1984
until further notice.

The Deposit Rate on monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is reduced from 6¾% to 6¼% per annum.

Why BL's future should be decided now

By Keron Bhattacharya

The Austin Rover strike has ended but BL still faces serious problems needing government attention soon

Doubts cast over the future of BL by the strikes at Austin Rover have been dispelled by the management's typically firm and effective response. If anything the dispute will have strengthened the favourable public image of a company turned round from disaster by aggressive and dynamic new management. But that image belies the reality that BL still faces deep-seated long-term problems that will require the Government to take some difficult strategic decisions sooner rather than later.

In spite of huge injections of investment from the taxpayer—more than £2 billion in the past eight years—BL has simply not made the decisive breakthrough to long-term financial viability that had been hoped. Austin Rover, the volume car heart of the state-controlled business, made only a small operating profit in 1983, the record year for vehicle sales in the United Kingdom. Its market share was only 18.9 per cent.

The company now has three new-generation models in the Metro, Maestro and Montego, yet despite topping the sales league with a 23 per cent share of the market in October, BL's market share this year so far is slightly down on its performance in 1983.

The most worrying feature of this is that the best-selling Metro is now halfway through the four to five years now seen as a model's typical life cycle. In the boom year of 1983, when BL was struggling to break even, the leading US producers were making the record profits needed to pay for the design costs of new models for the late 1980s.

That means the Government will have to decide whether it is prepared to inject still more large-scale investment into BL to allow it to keep up in the race. The time for such strategic thinking is surely now, when the waters are relatively calm, rather than in the crisis

atmosphere that might well
return later on

In making its decision, the Government will have to take account of two factors over which BL itself has no control.

The long-term outlook for the motor industry is poor, especially in the developing nations. A recent report from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development suggests that the annual rate of growth of the car market in Western Europe will be between 1.3 and 1.4 per cent for the rest of the century and only 0.7 per cent in the United States. That means competition is already intense, the home base is unlikely to be dynamic and weak competitors are going to continue under even greater pressure. Removal of the premium on car prices in Britain can only expose BL's position more starkly.

At the same time, the market and technical innovation will demand an ever greater investment in new models, frightening for any company which is not making much profit.

Constant product innovation is boosting the need for investment whether to improve fuel efficiency, incorporate more plastic or light alloy parts

in the car body or introduce sophisticated electronic components. Mr Sam Toy of Ford UK has estimated that developing a

new mass market model to compete on a world scale can cost \$1 billion.

The United States, Japan and Germany have made massive investments in their motor car industries right through the 1970s and are continuing to do so. If we are to maintain a truly British presence in the automobile industry, it will not come cheap.

There is little doubt that Austin Rover will require another £2 billion of funds from 1986 onwards for new design costs. Who will pay for it this time: the Government?

The overriding reason for supporting BL through its crisis years was the potential threat to jobs if it failed. While that still remains a motive, the room for

remains a motive, the scope for employment in the motor car industry is becoming progressively thinner with the advent of robots. Studies by General Motors and Volkswagen have shown that 95 per cent of the assembly work can be done by robots. Improvements in micro-processor technology have made robots cheaper - often half the cost of an employee - and a robot can work longer hours in a harsher environment.

We shall in any case see a substantial cut in direct employment in the automobile industry. And BL has already warned that it may have to rely on more foreign components to remain competitive.

Unless the Government is prepared to fund the operation *ad infinitum*, there appear to be

	1982		1983	
	Turnover £m	Operating profit (Loss) £m	Turnover £m	Operating profit (Loss) £m
Cars:				
Austin Rover	1,582	(101)	1,799	5
Jaguar	314	15	476	1
Unipert	342	14	346	1
Intra-group	Less 187	(6)	Less 189	(1)
	2,051	(78)	2,432	7
Commercial:				
Land Rover	411	(2)	370	(14)
Leysland Vehicles	426	(60)	435	70
International	365	21	339	1
Intra-group	Less 49	(1)	Less 42	
	1,153	(42)	1,102	(6)
	70	(3)	71	(4)
Other activities	Less 202	(3)	Less 184	
	3,072	(126)	3,421	7
Total		97		(6)
Interest		(223)		
Pretax profit				
*Since sold				

***Since sold**

five long-term options for the future of PL:

● **Privatization:** As with Jaguar, privatization is a simple matter for profitable parts of B.L. Unipart, now confirmed as the next on the list, will face no difficulties in that respect. Austin Rover, however, is a different proposition. When the crunch comes, there may not be a taker for Austin Rover. If the Government wants to come out of B.L., it should do so soon. If it is left much longer, the costs for new models will loom large in any would-be purchaser's mind.

● **Selling to the Japanese:** This is perhaps the best option if

only there is a taker. The Japanese have so far resisted taking over an existing British operation in spite of the prospect of opening up the European car market completely.

● Nissan as a replacement for BL: With the overcapacity in the car market, it is unlikely that both Nissan and Austin Rover will survive side by side if Nissan decides to produce cars on a volume basis. In that case, BL looks vulnerable. If one accepts that our basic objective is not to maintain BL but to ensure that 18 per cent of the United Kingdom car market

does not go to foreign manufacturers, this alternative looks financially attractive.

● Making foreign cars under licence: - This appears to be a soft option involving the least design costs. It is likely, if privatization takes place, that the new owners would follow this path to survive. As GM, Ford and the European manufacturers are competing in the United Kingdom on equal terms, the likely arrangement for licensing would be with the Japanese. Honda already designs for BL. The problem with this option is that Japanese cars sell well because of their reliability - one may find in their design. One may find in such circumstances that both design and reliability are sacrificed (this is no reflection on the quality of our products but the Japanese are very good in this respect).

- **Closure** (if politically acceptable): It would be wrong not to consider this option even if only for academic interest. At least it shows (in investment terms) the limit of the government's downside risk.

If one assumes that the closure would follow the discontinuance of the current European car price cartel and the price level for cars would come down to the Continental level, the picture appears less gloomy than we are led to believe. If the entire market share for BL cars were taken over by imported cars (an unlikely event), we would face a balance of payments deficit of about £1.8 billion. This amount would be compensated (more or less) if the price of imported cars were to come down to the Continental level.

It is possible that the job losses (in BL and in its component industries) and the reduction in people's buying power would be compensated more or less by the spin-off from the extra injection of consumers' funds released through reduced car prices. Lower car prices would also help bring down the rate of inflation.

Nobody is suggesting the closure of Austin Rover but it is necessary to consider it, if only to evaluate the other alternatives the Government will face as BL's dominant shareholder and paymaster.

The author is a writer and broadcaster and heads Jay Consultancy Services.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 Low High Company			Price		Gross only Price % P/E		1984 High Low Company			Price		Gross only Price % P/E		1984 High Low Company			Price		Gross only Price % P/E			
183	118	Albermarle	152	..	7.5	4.5	226	185	Packard Clear	217	..	71.1	6.1	38	24	Perpetual Avenue	50	..	9.5	9.8		
86	58	Alcoa	1.9	22	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
100	85	Alcon	3.8	32	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
208	215	Ang Air Ind	208	..	4.3	8.0	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
620	594	Ang Ind	594	..	4.3	8.0	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
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338	310	Ang Ind	310	..	4.3	8.0	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
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174	172	Ang Ind	172	..	4.3	8.0	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8
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174	172	Ang Ind	172	..	4.3	8.0	..	224	188	Planting Enterprises	218	..	18.4	4.8	..	257	243	Pharmacia	114	..	8.4	8.8

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

BAT Industries keeps them guessing

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

BAT Industries, the sprawling retailing tobacco group, had the stock market guessing yesterday. Its £180 million sale of its International Supermarkets chain to Dees Corporation, plus recent cash raising exercises has convinced many observers that the group is gearing itself for another significant takeover.

Last week BAT raised £100 million in the Eurosterling market. A few weeks earlier it had pulled in £250 million through another Euro issue.

The company may talk in terms of paying off short term debts but the stock market is far from convinced that reducing

Raybeck, the clothing group, is back in profit and should dramatically cut its £2.6 million interim loss to around £500,000 over the full year. But the company's multitude of top quality high street properties could well attract a takeover bid - possibly from Cecil Gee. A bid should be around 40p a share. Raybeck's price is 29p.

borrowings is the real, long term motive behind these BAT moves.

The near £1 billion takeover of the Eagle Star insurance group signalled BAT's intention to develop a powerful presence in the financial services industry.

In recent months the group's name has been linked with the Hill Samuel merchant banking group and yesterday, once the international sale was known, Hill's shares took on a new lease of life, gaining 3p to 308p.

But Hill Samuel represents only one of the possible BAT takeover avenues which are teasing the market so cruelly. Another, perhaps more exhilarating suggestion, was that the

group, which has enjoyed a high flying share price this year, is displaying more than a passing interest in the fierce struggle for control of the Currys Group electrical shops chain.

Currys is striving to resist a £20 million takeover bid from the Dixons Group. But it looks as though Dixons will win the day, thereby creating the most powerful electrical retailing group this country has yet known.

What a capture Dixons, plus Currys, would make for BAT. It looks as though Dixons will win the day, thereby creating the most powerful electrical retailing group this country has yet known.

A bid for Dixons and Currys would cost up to £600 million. Not a frightening figure for BAT.

Kennedy Brookes, the Mario and Franco and Wheeler's restaurants group, climbed 7p to 263p. A determined buyer has been evident in the market for the past few days and was particularly active yesterday.

One suggestion is that KB could be contemplating a significant move into hotels, possibly buying a top London property.

Government stocks had another quiet session with initial gains of up to £½ halved.

Kingsley and Forester, a private textiles company, gave details yesterday of its reverse takeover of K O Boardman. There is to be a placing of shares after which the Kingsley shareholders will have 50.4 per cent of the enlarged group. The placing price of 62p, against an equivalent 72p a share for K O Boardman, Boardman's 5p par ordinary shares traded at 18p before last month's suspension of dealings, and are now consolidated into the 20p ordinary share capital of the new company.

The board says Boardman will make profits of £150,000 in the nine months to December 31 - the proposed new year end, - while Kingsley forecasts profits of £1,575,000 for the year, against their £1,173,000 last year. A net dividend of 0.5p is recommended for the year to December 1984. The proposals will be put to Boardman shareholders on December 17.

Smurfit, another textile company with an interesting history of changes in shareholdings, came back into the market yesterday with a 7p share price

rise to 65p. Market men were hearing a variety of rumours yesterday as a handful of buyers returned to the stock.

As suggested in *The Times* yesterday Xetel, the communications group, disclosed disappointing profits with problems on its Digital Microsystems operation in the US creating difficulties. The shares, down 15p on Wednesday, fell a further 24p to 306p.

Profits down 25 per cent left Gieves, the publishing to tailoring group, 5p lower at 77p and Powell Duffry was 5p weaker at 313p on its 12 per cent profits decline.

Mr Howard Vogel, chairman of Western Board Mills, the South Wales cardboard makers, is selling his 50.4 per cent stake in WBM in an agreed bid from David Smith (Holdings), a local printer and cartoon maker. Mr Vogel's holding is worth more than £6.7 million at the 255p cash offer price. Holders of another 25 per cent of WBM will take the three-for-one. Smith share offer. WBM shares jumped 69p to 290p as the news came through, while Smith's shares slid 12p to 98p, valuing Smiths at £5.3 million.

Boots dipped 9p to 204p despite fine figures and its German acquisition. Tesco hit 227p, up 3p on its out-of-town shopping excursion with Marks and Spencer (down 2p at 122p).

Blue Circle Industries was helped by chart buying accompanied by talk of cement price increases and rose 7p to 495p. Brunner and Hallsamshire gained 5p to 153p on relief that the interim dividend had been held at 4p a share despite more than halved pretax profits.

Profit disappointment left French Kier the civil engineering group, down 7p to 125p and Hardwood Foods continued to respond to Wednesday's fine figures, gaining 25p to 89p.

James Woodhead, the vehicle suspension specialists, continued to be influenced by the interest of IEP Securities, one of the investment arms of New Zealand businessman Mr Ronald Brierley. Since IEP first disclosed its interest Woodhead shares have been strong and yesterday they gained a further 4p to 42p.

II Group was again heavily traded with American interest still strong. The shares fell 6p to 230p. Johnson Matthey rallied 8p to 88p after Wednesday's sharp decline but the market is growing increasingly convinced that British Petroleum's evaporating in bidding is rapidly evaporating.

Oils shares generally were, for the fourth day running, unsettled with stories of price cuts

hitting prices. Latest market rumour is that Saudi Arabia had lowered her prices. BP fell 15p to 480p; British lost 8p to 210p and Lamsco fell 10p to 350p. Shell dipped 12p to 611p.

Among agencies, AGB Research went back on an uptrend as market men heard whispers of good news from America. AGB has had a very positive response to its pilot TV ratings research system for the Boston area, with the leading American networks and advertising agencies well pleased with the first set of results which came through last Thursday.

International shareholders in Imperial Group are getting hopeful that the final dividend from the tobacco and food company will make up for what was regarded as a measly payout at half year. City men talk of a 16p total or more for the year, against just under 12p for the whole of 1983. That would mean a final dividend of about 12p. No one at Imperial is willing to comment on the idea, and the optimists will have to wait until the New Year to see if their dreams come true.

Polly Peck advanced 13p to 247p ahead of figures, due soon.

Horse of Fraser lost 6p to 300p on the latest boardroom moves and Great Universal Stores inched ahead in front of today's shareholders' meeting.

Recent issues

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Boots, the pharmaceuticals and consumer products group, produced interim pretax profits 23 per cent higher at £79.9 million on turnover 12 per cent ahead at £920.1 million, but the market ungratefully marked the shares down 9p to 204p.

The rate of increase will be slower in the second half, particularly as the impact of the price reduction of Rufen in the US starts to bite, but analysts are already pencilling in higher profits forecasts for the full year.

The first half was buoyed by a good retail performance. After stripping out property profits and a £5.8 million credit, following a government review of overhead costs, against a charge of £6.1 million in first half 1983, the retail side's trading profits rose by 14.4 per cent on turnover up 8.3 per cent.

Real growth was an impressive 5.8 per cent and margins gained a ½ per cent point. The new specialist image, which Boots is setting much store by, is apparently working.

On the pharmaceutical side the US produced trading profits of £9.8 million against £9.2 million in the whole of 1983/4. Despite the 25 per cent price cut on Rufen in June to meet competition (Rufen accounts for half the US sales) Boots should easily make £15 million in the US this year.

Analgesic Advil (Nurofen in Britain), sold in the US through American Home Products, has picked up 2 to 3 per cent market share since May, but there has been significant discounting in the US market.

Boots should comfortably make £180 million this year against £148.6 million last year, excluding property profits, putting it on a prospective p/e ratio of 13.8 on the higher 40 per cent tax charge.

Although the shares have been strong performers recently, the rating does not look demanding.

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to go. Only a yield of about 7½ per cent is supporting the share-price. The board may or may not have recognized this by maintaining an unchanged interim dividend.

The group, with its broad spread of interests and inevitable exposure to the mercenary workings of the British economy, appears to have been caught in the crossfire of political and economic events.

The miners' strike has affected the group quite badly. Some £10 million of sales and about £2 million of profits may have been lost to the shipping divisions because of the dispute. The group is putting a brave face on second-half prospects, suggesting that any profits shortfall will be proportionately less than for the first-half.

Analysts also fear that Powell Duffryn's lucrative Newcastle to London shipping run may suffer from the Central Electricity Generating Board's decision to commission its own shipping fleet.

The local authority spending moratorium in South Wales has also hit the group. Construction profits have slumped by around £1 million to £2 million, although there are signs that local authority spending is picking up.

The divisional breakdown does reveal some high spots. Engineering profits, for example, have improved by about £2 million to £2.9 million, while satisfactory oil trading has muffled the impact of the miners' strike on the fuel distribution interests; profits here have risen from about £1.9 million to £2.7 million.

Mr Mike Murphy of Quilter Goodson, a Powell Duffryn shareholder, doubts whether Hanson Trust will move to build on its stake by bidding, at least not before the miners' strike is concluded. He also puts the net asset value at around 370p, not the broadly muted 400p.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range	Market rates close	
New York	\$1.2500-1.2510	\$1.2504-1.2508	1 month
London	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	3 months
Amsterdam	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	0.07-0.08 prem
Paris	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	0.07-0.08 prem
Copenhagen	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	70-75 disc
Frankfurt	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	70-75 disc
Madrid	1.2500-1.2502	1.2500-1.2502	150-75 disc
Lima	200.75-207.10	200.75-207.10	50-75 disc
Dallas	10.6500-10.7500	10.7100-10.7500	70-75 disc
Oso	10.6500-10.7500	10.7100-10.7500	70-75 disc
Stockholm	10.6500-10.7500	10.7100-10.7500	70-75 disc
Geneva	10.6500-10.7500	10.7100-10.7500	70-75 disc
Venice	25.90-26.00	25.90-26.00	60-65 prem
Basel	25.90-26.00	25.90-26.00	60-65 prem
Dublin	1.1870-1.1940	1.1905-1.1920	50-60 disc

Swedish index unchanged with 1976 was unchanged at 76.1 day's range

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

By William Kay

Magic Moment Restaurants is the latest venture to be waded under the noses of investors interested in putting their money into a business Expansion Scheme vehicle.

It is based on an idea which has been developed in Sarasota, Florida, over the past seven years. The plan is to offer a restaurant, bar and surroundings which compare with the likes of London's Garfunkels or Guggenheims - with one extra ingredient: as the dessert or coffee is brought to your table, you can ask for a magician to appear at your side to perform a few tricks.

This, say the Rosenberg family who developed the concept, encourages people to talk about the restaurant and come back to have a different set of tricks performed by one of a repertoire of seven or eight magicians. It also forms a natural ending to the meal, encouraging customers to get up and go while they are still feeling euphoric from the little private show that has been laid on for them.

That ruse is designed to achieve an average of 2.52 covers a seat a day in high season, at an average price of £11.95 for dinner and £5.95 for lunch.

And for my next trick, a meal

including drinks but excluding VAT.

The UK Magic Moments wants to raise £809,000 through the issue of 4.6 million shares at 17½p by the end of this month. It seems to have everything: proven concept, experienced board, 22-page prospectus including detailed profit projections. All it lacks so far are any premises from which to trade. Would-be shareholders are told that a site is being sought in the West End of London, but the restaurant will not be open before March 31 next year.

The fledgling company is in talks to take over an existing restaurant with an established name in the tourist district of London. The present owner will receive cash, shares and a seat on the board if the deal succeeds. But he is in turn making it conditional on the £809,000 being raised.

The scheme has been organized by United Trust and Credit, the Mayfair issuing house which brought Applied Holographic and Cable House Properties to the stock market, as well as floating the less successful Publishing Holding. They have three men on the Magic Moment board, along with 30-year-old Jeffrey Rosenberg and Harold Tillman, the businessman who was recently involved with Lincroft Kilgour and Sumrie Clothes, and helped to launch the Rumours cocktail bar in London. The prospectus says he has "broad business experience".

UTC will have a 10 per cent stake in Magic Moment, and has signed a five-year consultancy agreement with the company, giving UTC £10,000 a year plus 2 per cent of monthly turnover. Sea-Scapes, the Rosenberg company, will hold 17.14 per cent in return for a year's knowhow.

The money being raised should be enough to finance about three restaurants before shareholders are asked for more. As a greenfield operation, the shares are obviously a gamble. But, aside from the BES tax breaks, investors can comfort themselves with two meals a year at a 12½ per cent discount.

Advice - thanks to Queen Victoria

By Derek Harris

Small businesses will have the chance of consultancy help on a wide range of problems under a scheme being launched by the Fellowship of Engineering, senior body among the professional engineering institutions. There will be a considerable element of subsidy, at any rate initially.

Financing of the scheme is coming from the Royal Commission for the exhibition of 1851. Remarkably the commission is still administering funds left over from the great Victorian exhibition using interest earned to fund a variety of causes. The Fellowship believe many small businesses lack both the cash and the time to set up consultancy links to help with their problems. Links between small companies and academic staff of universities or polytechnics who would provide the consultancy expertise were seen as the answer.

Matching suitable businesses with the right academics is being done by the Fellowship, which is now involved in setting up at least three company-academic links as a pilot experiment. One Fellow will be closely identified with each project, monitoring its progress and offering help where needed. Initially 60 per cent of the consultancy fees will be paid by the Commission, with the company involved footing the rest of the bill.

The aim will be to foster a long-term relationship that could eventually become self-sustaining, removing the need for a subsidy.

Contact: Fellowship of Engineering, 2 Little Smith Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3DL; phone (01) 222 2688.



I've just got a government contract so I'll need a larger office to store the paperwork

BRIEFING

One year's free consultancy and counselling in business management are being offered to tenants of a 53-unit, seed-bed centre which has opened this month at Harlow, Essex. Units range from 230 to 2,000 square feet. Rents, from £55 a week, include such facilities as a communal reception area, secretarial services, a word-processor and a telephone to take messages. Only two weeks' notice is required.

Nine units are operational and a further eight have been taken. Businesses include the production of labelling machines (run by two men who until now have been working in a garden shed), kitchen design, leather goods, light

engineering, security fencing and making leather coats.

The £1½ million scheme is sponsored by the National Federation of Industrial Associations, Guardian Royal Exchange and the local council, which is keen to encourage business development in the area.

Contact: Harlow Industrial Association, Cold Harbour Lane, Harlow, Essex. Telephone 0279 444020.

Four years ago, when Consett Steelworks closed, 3,750 were made redundant. In the early 1970s 7,000 worked there. So Derwentside, which embraces the Country Durham former steel town, has a formidable jobs fightback on its hands.

But the fight to attract new businesses is going well, according to Derwentside Industrial Agency's new chief executive, John Carney. The latest job offer, shows there are 2,000 new jobs on the cards with another 1,700 commitments forecast. The target is 5,000 jobs by the end of five years and Carney says they are on schedule. New industries are as diverse as micro products, bio technology, caravans, yachts and small boats, home brew kits, snack foods and multi-socket electric track. Projects secured so far have filled nearly a million square feet of factory space.

The agency is hunting rapid-growth firms seeking manufacturing and distribution in the North and the outer South-East. Scandinavian and American companies have also placed factories in Derwentside. The agency offers business-plan service and claims one of the best package of incentives to industry in the country.

There is help with advance factories and rent-free periods (up to two years), availability of small workshop units.

Contact: John Carney, Derwentside Industrial Development Agency Ltd, Berry Edge Road, Consett, County Durham, DH8 5EU; phone (0207) 506124.

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CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

UGANDA

Agriculture Reconstruction Programme

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Tenders are invited for the Fourth Tranche of procurement under the Agriculture Reconstruction Programme in Uganda. The tender will close in London on Wednesday 11th December 1984 at 10.00 AM. The last date for submission of tenders will be 20th December 1984.

Tender documents can be obtained from: THE CROWN AGENTS, BBAC Dept, 4 MILLBANK, LONDON SW1P 3JD on payment of a fee of £45.

The Crown Agents Representative (Uganda) AR7, British High Commission, PO Box 7070, Kampala, Uganda

on payment of a fee of £45 or its equivalent in Uganda Shillings. The tender will close in London on Wednesday 11th December 1984 at 10.00 AM. The last date for submission of tenders will be 20th December 1984.

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Centrally located first floor flat in first class block, close shops of the West End. Attractively decorated and newly furnished. The flat consists of 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, kitchen and good sized reception with dining area. 3/12 months.

£250 per week

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Baby's heart rebuilt by surgeons

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The heart of an eight-year-old baby girl has been reconstructed in a pioneering operation to build up parts missing when she was born.

The baby girl, Catherine Coates, was making good progress, it was said last night, after the nine hours of surgery earlier this month.

She has already returned to her home in Fife, North Yorkshire, where her mother said last night: "We are all completely overwhelmed at what has happened. The doctors were magnificent and Catherine is looking just fine."

The pioneering surgery was done at Killbeck Hospital, Leeds, by a team working with Mr Duncan Walker, the paediatric surgeon.

Mr Walker said yesterday that he had originally told Catherine's parents that she was unlikely to survive the operation. He added: "We are very hopeful Catherine will continue to make good progress."

Research toward this form of operation has been in progress at Killbeck for more than 10 years. Reconstruction of badly damaged hearts at birth is regarded by some specialists as a better option than a complete transplant, as it avoids risks of rejection.

The rare condition for which the operation was performed is similar to that suffered by Hollie Roffie, the baby who died earlier this year after being given a heart transplant at London's National Heart Hospital.

Most of the right side of the heart was missing and the surgeons rebuilt the chambers on that side, the connecting valves between them and the main artery, the aorta, which curves in an arch backward from the heart to supply the body's blood distribution network. The parts were taken from a donor heart.

Mr Walker said that the surgery involved was extremely difficult. Catherine's heart measured about two inches in diameter.

Although the doctors were concerned about the baby's ability to survive such an intricate operation, they were more hopeful about it becoming established, thereafter, without the difficulties of rejection.

In using a donor heart to provide specific component parts, the doctors were using material which was more inert than the tissues involved in a full transplant.

The operation has been tried unsuccessfully seven times in the past 10 years.

Immunity call for JPs over legal decisions

Three Law Lords called yesterday for changes in the law to give magistrates the same immunity from legal action as judges.

Their comments came in a judgment on a Northern Ireland case in which a youth who was wrongly sent to hospital in 1978 sued three Belfast magistrates who imposed the penalty, claiming damages for wrongful imprisonment.

The House of Lords rejected an appeal by the magistrates against a ruling that they were liable to be sued because they had acted in excess of their jurisdiction.

But the judges urged changes in the law which at present gives magistrates only limited legal protection from such actions.

Last night the judges' comments were welcomed by Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association.

Privatization blamed for child labour

Child labour, filthy hospital wards, classrooms, and streets, are listed among the effects of "privatizing" local authority and health services in a Trades Union Congress report published yesterday.

In a document detailing 70 cases of "privatization gone wrong", which is being sent to senior local authority administrators, the TUC cites two examples of children under 16 being employed to clean hospital wards and schools.

In Merton, London, last year several cases of 15-year-olds and one 13-year-old working for Academy Cleaning Services were reported.

Office Cleaning Services, contracted to clean Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, admitted last year to employing without permits three children under 16, who were then sacked.

Merton have cancelled the Academy contract.

Labour picks use rather than abuse of Parliament

Continued from page 1

showed how effective verbal assault can be. Keeping attention as far as possible on the Government's alleged offence, he accused the Prime Minister of a gratuitously vindictive act in reducing the purchasing power of benefit payments to strikers' families.

Mr Thatcher said the charge was against the National Union of Mineworkers, which chose to spend its funds on mob violence instead of strike pay. She said the increase from £15 to £16 in the deemed level of strike pay was part of the formula which since 1980 had been applied automatically at annual upratings.

Mr Hattersley said the statute gave ministers power to vary the figure. Because she had chosen not to, the Prime Minister must take the direct responsibility in terms of suffering, hardship and violence.

Mr Weatherill at the end of question time made a brief statement, reminding the House how over the centuries it had guarded its procedure of free debate, which he promised to uphold. He added quietly that he hoped he would always have the full backing of the whole House.

Parliament, page 4

Law Lords uphold GCHQ ban

Continued from page 1

Minister refused to consult the unions before issuing her instructions "because she feared that, if she did, union-organized disruption of the monitoring services of GCHQ could well result".

With the other law lords, Lord Diplock, Lord Roskill and Lord Brightman, they dismissed the appeal brought by the Council of Civil Service Unions against the ruling of the Court of Appeal in August, which also upheld the legality of the Prime Minister's action.

The Government went to the Court of Appeal after Mr Justice Gidwell, in the High Court, declared the ban unlawful on the ground that it breached the rules of natural justice.

The unions, as well as saying they were going to the European Court, warned the Cabinet last night that if any of the 400 staff at GCHQ is dismissed industrial action would follow in the Civil Service and elsewhere.

Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "If the Government thinks this is the end of the GCHQ affair they are badly mistaken."

"There must be an appeal to the international courts which defend human rights. Despite what their lordships say, it remains morally wrong for these workers to be denied the right to union representation."

Lawyers retained by the Council of Civil Service Unions are to draw up a case arguing that six government employees have been deprived of their human rights by being denied the opportunity to belong to a free and independent trade union.

Members of unions at GCHQ who refused to give up their union cards met last night to discuss their next step in the 10-month campaign.

About 400 GCHQ staff are believed to have held on to their union cards out of a total of up to 10,000 employees.

Leading article, page 13
Law Report, page 23

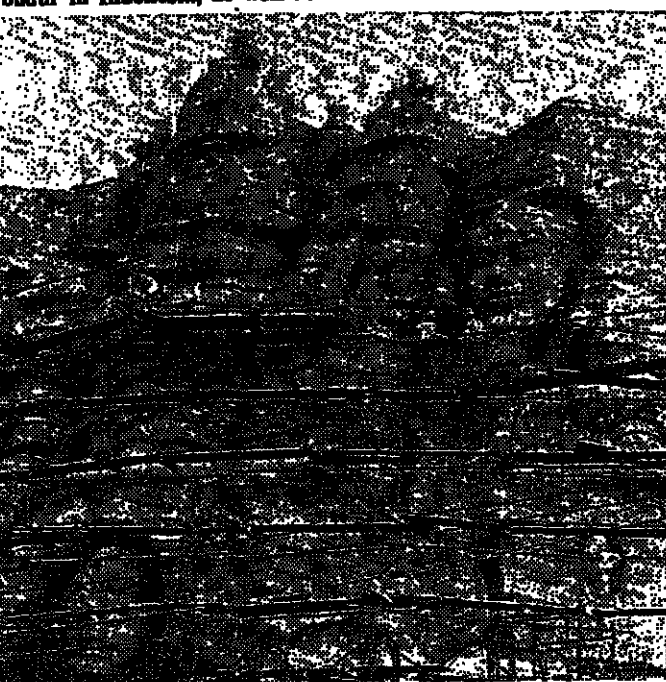
Sun rises on Pharaoh I, circa 1984

From David Watts, Tokyo

The most striking pavilion in the Expo 85 exhibition, which is to open in March, is a \$5m project developed by one of Japan's leading publishing houses. Designed like the cover of a magazine to reveal the goodies inside, it features a striking series of reproductions of the world's most famous ancient artefacts.

Workmen (below) complete in mortar the representation of an Egyptian Pharaoh (detail, right) on the pavilion exterior.

Standing almost 80ft high, the pavilion also features the famous figures from Easter Island in the Pacific, a Greco-Buddhist figure of the Gandhara style from the North-West Frontier, clay images found in ancient Japanese tombs as burial objects, and reproductions from the world's largest Buddhist shrine, Borobudur in Indonesia, as well as



Russians agree to talk about arms

Continued from page 1

antagonism toward Reagan to agreement to hold talks on all arms questions, from land-based missiles to anti-satellite weapons", one diplomat said.

Yesterday Dr Georgy Arbatov, a senior Kremlin adviser, said that Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz would discuss a broad range of issues rather than one particular issue.

Observers said that the Kremlin was being driven back to the negotiating table by an awareness of the crippling cost of the arms race, and by the need to prove to the Russians, the West and Russia's allies that Moscow was in favour of dialogue and arms reduction.

The Russians were, in effect, adopting the "umbrella" concept they had previously rejected. Yesterday Dr Arbatov pointed out that Mr Chernomir had repeatedly suggested "broad" talks.

WASHINGTON: The United States hopes that the Shultz-Gromyko meeting will usher in a new phase of arms control negotiations, but is sticking to its insistence that the Soviet proposal for a mutual end to the development of space weapons is unacceptable (Christopher Thomas writes).

Administration officials say that since Russia already has the only anti-satellite weapon, a freeze on Soviet terms would not be in the interest of the United States. Washington would seek the verifiable withdrawal of the Soviet anti-satellite weapons before considering a ban on either further development.

Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's National Security Adviser, said yesterday that it was hoped to reach agreement on nuclear weapons and weapons in outer space. He quoted Mr Reagan as saying: "This is good news. It is the first step on what will be long and difficult road, but the world is depending on us."

Mr McFarlane said the United States would enter the meeting in a spirit of honest compromise. It would be premature to speculate on whether the encounter would lead to a summit between Mr Reagan and President Chernenko, the Soviet leader.

KINNOCK TALKS: Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, said yesterday after talks with Dr Arbatov in Moscow that he had told the Russians that Labour was absolutely committed to an "effective and modern" defence within the Western alliance.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Princess of Wales visits the Victoria Centre, Park Rd, Wellingborough, Northants, 11.
Prince Andrew visits the British Aerospace Manufacturing Facility, Warton, Lancashire, 10.30.
The Duchess of Kent attends the annual presentation of medals and certificates to nursing staff of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, at the Guildhall, 3.
The Duke and Duchess of Kent attend the British Red Cross Film

Premiere of The Killing Fields
Warner Theatre, Leicester Sq, 7.45.
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the Sportstar of the Year Awards luncheon, The Savoy, 1.40.
New exhibitions
Closing the Gap: photographs of eight young midlands artists, Herbert Art Gallery, and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 16).
From Cape to Cromer: watercolours by Guy Todd, Litcham Gallery, From St. Kings Lymas, Tues to Sun 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 (ends Dec 23).

The Body Electric: a history of dance photography, and On and Off the Wheel: studio ceramics from Paisley, Crawford Centre for the Arts, St Andrew's University Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 23).

The Pastel Progressives: trends in pastel paintings, Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, 41 Long St, Devizes, Tues to Sat 11 to 1 and 2 to 4 (ends Dec 22).

One for the pot: Museum and Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness, Mon to Sat 9 to 5 (ends Dec 15).

Graham Sutherland in Pembroke, Carmarthen Museum, Aberystwyth, Carmarthen, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30 (ends Dec 8).

Buckinghamshire Crafts, Miles Silbury Boulevard, Mon to Wed 9.30 to 6, Thur and Fri 9.30 to 8, Sat 10 to 5 (ends Dec 15).

Still Life: work by Susan Krejzl, Walsall Museum and Art Gallery, Central Library, Lichfield Street, Walsall, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4.45 (ends Dec 13).

Artists and potters now, Southampton Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed 24, 25 and 26 Dec (ends Jan 13).

Music
Concert of Tudor music from the time of the Mary Rose, Phoenix Arts, Newmarket, Sat 7.30 to 9.30.
Organ recital by Christopher Bell, Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh, 1.10.
Concert by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Mitchell Hall, Aberdeen, 7.30.
Concert by the Scottish National Orchestra, Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 7.30.
Organ recital by James Parsons, Longborough University, 7.30.
Recital by Benedict King-Smith (baritone) and Mark Racz (piano), John Lee Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret St, Birmingham, 7.30.

Food prices

The weather on the South Coast has been kind to fishermen this week and landings of small plaice, cod and dabs have been good. The news from other coastal areas, however, is disappointing. Gales have prevented many boats going to sea, especially in Scotland. Sea-birds this week are small cod £1.30-£1.70 a lb, dabs from 40p and plaice fillets £2.

All cuts of home produce lamb are up by 1p to 3p a lb again. Whole leg roasts from £1.44 to £1.82, whole shoulder 85p to £1.16 and loin chops £1.59-£2.14. New Zealand lamb shows a slight increase also, but some bargains are to be found. Sainbury's have whole leg at 99p a lb and fillet half at £1.02. Beef prices are fairly steady, with boneless sirloin, fore rib and rump steak down a penny a lb. Leg of pork ranges from 96p to £1.29, loin chops £1.32-£1.54 and boneless shoulder £1.00-£1.42. Some good meat buys this week are Tesco's fresh chicken ready basted at 68p a lb, boneless middle cuts of beef £1.50 and rump steak £2.48.

As supplies of citrus fruit from Spain increase, satsumas are probably the best buy at 25-35p a lb, seedless, juicy and easy to peel. Conference and Comice pears 25-40p are plentiful and very good. Avocado pears are good value from 25p each, as are small and medium pineapples 60-95p and kiwi fruit 16-35p each.

Brussels sprouts at 14-20p, savoy and green cabbage 10-20p a lb, carrots 8-18p, parsnips 15-25p and potatoes 8-14p are all plentiful and excellent. Celery 30-45p a head, Chinese leaves 20-30p a lb and cucumber 25-40p each are best buys.

Top films

The top box office films in London:

- 1 (2) 1984
- 2 The Woman in Red
- 3 Company of Wolves
- 4 The Natural
- 5 Tighrop
- 6 The Moon in Paris
- 7 One Hundred and One Dalmatians
- 8 The Hotel New Hampshire
- 9 Red Dawn
- 10 Conan the Destroyer

Top films in the provinces:

- 1 The Woman in Red
- 2 Grease
- 3 The Natural
- 4 Broadway Danny Rose
- 5 1984

Compiled by Screen International

Top video rentals

- 1 The Empire Strikes Back
- 2 E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial
- 3 The Untouchables
- 4 The Godfather Part II
- 5 The Untouchables
- 6 The Untouchables
- 7 The Untouchables
- 8 The Untouchables
- 9 The Untouchables
- 10 The Untouchables

Roads

Wales and West: A38: North and southbound lane closures on the approach to Marsh Mills roundabout.

The North: M6: Hard shoulder closed both directions of junction 21A in Warrington. A1 (M): Lane restrictions between Blackfield and Havannah interchange (Type and West). A1: Contraflow at Stubbville Bridge, at S end of Alnwick bypass; stretch of southbound carriageway closed.

Scotland: A74: City of Glasgow Roadworks on London Rd between Mount Vernon Rd and Carmyle Ave; westbound inside lane closed, 24 hrs. M8: Roadworks on link to M73 at Ballistone interchange; outside lane closed on southbound carriageway.

Information supplied by the AA

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on Warsaw Committee report on human fertilisation and embryology.

The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.08	2.08
Belgium F	27.08	27.08
Denmark Kr	13.66	13.66
France F	166.35	166.35
Germany DM	3.36	3.36
Greece Dr	178.48	178.48
Hongkong \$	10.00	10.00
India Rupee	13.45	13.45
Italy Lira	2036.00	2036.00
Japan Yen	340.75	340.75
Netherlands Gld	4.36	4.36
New Zealand \$	2.04	2.04
Portugal Escudo	200.48	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Krona	13.76	13.76
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05
USA \$	1.58	1.58
Yugoslavia Dinar	20.50	20.50

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Refill Price Index 357.7

London: The FT index closed down 8.8 at 908.5

Weather forecast

A very deep depression which is expected to be near Western Scotland tomorrow morning will move slowly NE.

Gam to midnight

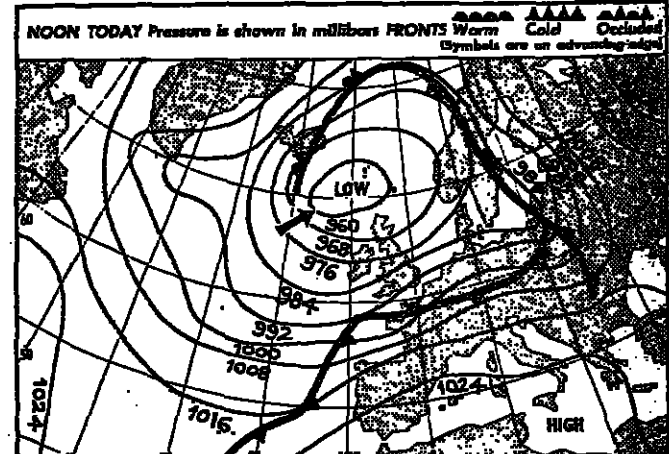
London, East Angles, E, W, Midlands, E, Central N England: Rather cloudy, with at times; wind SW strong; max temp 11C (52F).

SE, central S, SW England, Channel Islands, S Wales: Rather cloudy, showers or longer periods of rain; wind SW strong; max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy in places with isolated hail or thunder; wind SW strong; max temp 9C (48F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy and prolonged in places with isolated hail or thunder; wind SW strong; max temp 9C (48F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy in places with isolated hail or thunder; wind SW strong; max temp 9C (48F).



High tides

Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	12.48	6.17
Aberdeen	12.48	6.17
Aberystwyth	12.48	6.17
Cardiff	12.48	6.17
Doncaster	12.48	6.17
Edinburgh	12.48	6.17
Falmouth	12.48	6.17
Glasgow	12.48	6.17
Harwich	12.48	6.17
Haywards	12.48	6.17
Leamington	12.48	6.17
Lough	12.48	6.17
Loughswilly	12.48	6.17
Malinbeg	12.48	6.17
Newquay	12.48	6.17
Oban	12.48	6.17
Plymouth	12.48	6.17
Portsmouth	12.48	6.17
Sharncliffe	12.48	6.17
Southampton	12.48	6.17
Swansea	12.48	6.17
Torquay	12.48	6.17
Wexford	12.48	6.17

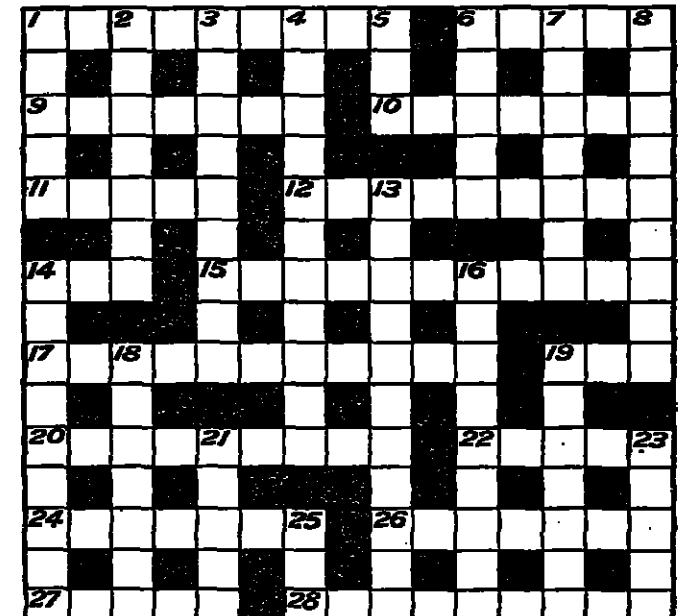
Around Britain

City	Sun Rain	Mon Rain	Tue Rain	Wed Rain	Thurs Rain	Fri Rain	Sat Rain
Cardiff	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Edinburgh	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Glasgow	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
London	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Manchester	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Newcastle	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nottingham	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Sheffield	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Southampton	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Swansea	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Torquay	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Wexford	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Abroad

City	Sun Rain	Mon Rain	Tue Rain	Wed Rain	Thurs Rain	Fri Rain	Sat Rain
Algeria	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Amman	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Baghdad	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Bombay	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Buenos Aires	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Calcutta	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cairo	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Colon	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Hong Kong	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
London	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Lyons	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Madrid	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Moscow	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
New York	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paris	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Rome	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Seoul	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Singapore	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Tokyo	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Winnipeg	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Zurich	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,593



- ACROSS
- 1 American hides drug where we can't see (5,4).
 - 2 Remains a widow, wanting quiet (5).
 - 3 Edmund finds Sir Patrick on QE (7).
 - 4 Mab involved with sort of love feast (7).
 - 5 Hiring would be satisfactory if parking were put first (5).
 - 6 To have 1,000 in hand shows disproportion (9).
 - 7 Daughter I had cheated (3).
 - 8 Money makes very little difference (5,6).
 - 9 Secret about a type of missile, say (11).
 - 10 About to reject bed in a botch (3).
 - 11 Seatorcruiser with great potential? (4,5).
 - 12 Cars about pile-up on glacier? (5).
 - 13 Falls back again with regiment (7).
 - 14 He rises late to idle vaguely round Lincoln (3-4).
 - 15 Headstone mentioned in vicar's telegram (5).
 - 16 Scott's Dr Jones is a dull dog (9).
- DOWN
- 1 Her? Yes and no (5).
 - 2 Country song-writer (7).
 - 3 Saddy, Daisy's piano recording causes internal trouble (9).
 - 4 Saucy in town and showing obscenity (11).

Christmas mail

Today is the latest recommended posting date for Christmas cards, letters and parcels by surface routes to most of Europe and the Falkland Islands. Airmail Christmas cards and letters should be sent to HM Forces in the South Atlantic by December 14. The last date for surface mail to France is November 26.

Canal souvenirs

A range of seasonal gifts such as Christmas cards, a 12 page canal calendar and other canal souvenirs are available from British Waterways Board's Information Centre, Canal Shop, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, NW1; open Mon to Fri 9.15 to 4.30. For further details: tel. 01 262-6711 ext. 6361 or 6364.

Anniversaries

Births: Franklin Pierce, 14th president of the USA 1853-57, Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 1804; James Thomson, poet, author of *The City of Dreadful Night*, Port Glasgow, 1834.

Deaths: Thomas Tallis, composer, Greenwich, 1585; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, playwright, London, 1934; André Malraux, novelist and art historian, Paris, 1976.

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to play

Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

If you take together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254 2272 between 10.00 am and 6.00 pm on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio dividend. No claims can be accepted after Christmas Eve.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalid.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor mistakes in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalid.

The wording of rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The same text is in effect and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.